MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

6 APRIL 1981

Lebanon

Clashes in Beirut, Zahlah--Violent clashes continued in both Beirut and the Christian town of Zahlah throughout the weekend, according to Beirut and Voice of Lebanon radios. Beirut radio reported that although fighting in Zahlah stopped at noon on 3 April to allow Red Cross supplies in, clashes later resumed. Voice of Lebanon radio accused Syrian Arab Deterrent Forces (ADF) of thwarting attempts to impose a cease-fire in both Zahlah and Beirut over the weekend. After a short period of calm on 5 April, "violent battles" erupted in the capital on 6 April, Beirut radio reported, while the situation in Zahlah was still "explosive." Earlier, on 3 April, Lebanese Public Works and Transport Minister Ilyas al-Hirawi returned to Beirut from Damascus, Beirut radio reported. According to Damascus radio, he met with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, who stressed Syria's concern over events in Lebanon, and they decided to take "some measures" to help establish security in Lebanon.

Beirut radio reported on 4 April that the Lebanese Army was to assume responsibility for security in Zahlah, but the clandestine Voice of Palestine radio reported that Syrian authorities "categorically rejected" such a suggestion. Voice of Palestine said the Syrians will allow Lebanese Army units to enter Zahlah only if they are placed under the command of the ADF. On the other hand, AFP, citing Lebanese press reports, said Syria would accept the entry of the Lebanese Army if the Phalangist militia withdrew from Zahlah.

Damascus Talks--PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat led a PLO delegation that met in Damascus on 4 April with a Lebanese Nationalist Movement delegation and the Syrian leadership, Voice of Palestine radio reported. According to a later Voice of Palestine report, 'Arafat said that during the meeting a number of decisions were made on confronting the "isolationist-Israeli escalation" in Lebanon.

Syrian Comment--Syrian press and radio commentaries have blamed the outbreak of fighting in Beirut and Zahlah on the Phalangist militias. Commenting on the motive for the Phalangists' action, a 3 April TISHRIN commentary, reviewed by Damascus radio, said it was taken on behalf of Israel and the other enemies of Syria: The United States, Jordan's King Husayn, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and those who want to keep Lebanon a "bleeding wound" on the body of the Arab homeland. A 4 April TISHRIN commentary, reviewed by Damascus radio, asserted that the Phalangists want to keep Lebanon "bleeding" in order to divert Arab attention from the "core" of the Arab cause. A 4 April Damascus radio commentary said Zionism and U.S. imperialism need a cover for their "conspiratorial moves" in the Middle East and thus "instigated" the Phalangists to "explode" the security situation in Lebanon. They have been exposed, however, and their plans will not succeed, it added.

Israeli Reaction--According to Jerusalem radio's English service, Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said Israel will not "sit by idly and remain apathetic to the massacre of civilians" in Lebanon. Another Jerusalem radio report said Moshe Arens, chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee, stressed that Israel's commitment to Lebanon applies to all Lebanese citizens, not just those in the south. In an interview with IDF radio, however, Deputy Defense Minister Mordehkay Tzipori drew a distinction between events in the southern Lebanese border area and those in northern Lebanon. Any change in the south, he said, would necessitate "immediate" action by Israel, while events in the north should be watched and examined. Meanwhile, Jerusalem radio, citing unconfirmed reports, said Israel has warned Syria about events in Lebanon, demanding that Syria stop the "massacre" of Christians there.

Haddad Reaction--In a 4 April speech, broadcast live by the Voice of Hope radio, Christian militia commander Maj Sa'd Haddad pledged that his forces would shell Sidon until the shelling of Zahlah stopped. Voice of Hope reported later that day that Haddad's forces shelled both Sidon and An-Nabatiyah. The Voice of Palestine reported that the "Zionist-isolationist" forces shelled all the main towns and Palestinian camps in southern Lebanon on 5 April, while Voice of Hope reported on 4 and 5 April that Marj 'Uyun and other Christian towns came under fire from "terrorists and Syrian forces."

Haig Middle East Tour

Talks in Egypt--U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig arrived in Cairo on 4 April, on the first leg of a tour of Egypt, Israel, Jordan and Saudi Arabia. According to MENA reports, Secretary Haig met the same day with Egyptian Vice President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and held talks with Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali. MENA reported that the talks concerned three subjects: 1) the Middle East situation and the peace process, including the question of a multinational force to supervise the Israeli withdrawal from the Sinai. 2) a review of the subject of the stability of and foreign interference in the area; 3) bilateral relations. According to MENA, Ghali said that during the talks the Egyptian side emphasized: 1) Egypt's status as a nonaligned state; 2) the importance of the Palestinian question to the Middle East problem; 3) Egypt's links with the Arab, African and nonaligned states; 4) Egypt's efforts to form a UN-sponsored peacekeeping force for the Sinai. If efforts in regard to the latter fail, Ghali said, Egypt will seek a multinational force that would have no connection with U.S. strategy. Secretary Haig held a 2-hour meeting with President Anwar as-Sadat on 5 April, Cairo radio reported. The two men later held a press conference, the text of which was carried by MENA, at which As-Sadat described the meeting as "fruitful and constructive."

Talks in Israel--Secretary of State Haig flew to Israel on 5 April where he held talks with Prime Minister Menahem Begin and other ministers. Jerusalem television reported that the two sides discussed the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty, the proposed multinational force, the strategic situation and the arms race in the Middle East, and the current Lebanese crisis. The discussions did not resolve U.S.-Israeli differences on the supply of arms to Saudi Arabia, the television claimed. Secretary Haig met with Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres the following day. Afterward, the Israeli opposition leader told Jerusalem radio that he found himself in agreement with Secretary Haig on most issues raised at their meeting.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Good Offices Committee--Habib Chatti, Islamic Conference secretary general and spokesman of the good offices committee mediating between Iran and Iraq, arrived in Iran on 3 April, Tehran radio reported. It later reported that Chatti met in Khuzestan with President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr and submitted the good offices committee's latest peace proposals. According to the radio, Bani-Sadr said after the meeting that the proposals will be discussed with Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni and the Supreme Defense Council and a reply will be sent to the good offices committee. The proposals, he added, show "progress" in meeting Iran's conditions for a cease-fire. The proposal that a committee be formed to investigate the "aggression" is a "clear and positive" development, he said, and the withdrawal of forces has been made to "coincide" with the resolution of the border conflict. However, he concluded, Iran must find out if its conditions have been met; if not, Iran should continue its "resistance."

Chatti visited Baghdad on 4 April, INA reported, where he discussed the latest proposals with Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz and Acting Foreign Minister Hamid 'Alwan. On his return to Jidda the same day, Chatti said that the committee's mission has reached a "positive stage" and that both Iran and Iraq have shown "great interest" in the committee's peace proposals, Riyadh radio reported. He added that both countries are expected to reply to the proposals within the next few days.

Hammadi Tour--According to reports by INA and SPA, Iraqi Foreign Minister Sa'dun Hammadi made brief visits to Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait on 4 and 5 April, delivering messages from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to the leaders of those countries. According to Amman radio, the message he delivered to Jordan's King Husayn dealt with the military situation in the Iran-Iraq conflict, the activities of the Islamic Conference good offices committee and relations between Iraq and Jordan. INA reported that while in Kuwait Hammadi told journalists that President Husayn thought it necessary to consult with other "fraternal" Arab countries on "some important matters."

Military Situation--Tehran radio reported that Iranian planes attacked four Iraqi bases deep inside Iraq on 4 April. Commenting on the raid in a radio interview, Iran's defense minister and air force commander, Col Javad Fakuri, said that eight Iranian fighters had attacked a military complex near the Jordanian border, destroying Tupolevs, fighters and long-range bombers. An Iraqi General Command communique, carried by INA, reported that Iranian planes raided an Iraqi airport near the Syrian border. It claimed the planes came from "inside Syria." Iranian planes also hit residential areas in Kirkuk, the communique said. Iraqi communiques reported successes on the ground over the weekend particularly in clashes in the Gilan-e Gharb, Mehran and Dezful regions. Tehran radio reported that Iranian forces captured 64 Iraqis in offensive operations west of Dezful. The radio also reported that Iraqi artillery and missiles hit Ahvaz over the weekend.

PARS on Egyptian Arms Sales--In a 4 April commentary reacting to the disclosure by Egyptian President as-Sadat that Egypt has sold military equipment to Iraq, the Iranian news agency PARS said Iraq's claim that the sale does not signal any change in Iraq's policy toward Egypt is "absolutely false." The commentary linked the sale with visits to the Middle East by the British defense secretary and the American secretary of state and with the Iraqi foreign minister's recent visit to the United Kingdom. Egypt, it continued, is sending arms to Iraq with the "direct permission" of Washington. Iraq is under so much pressure because of the "military calamity" it is suffering in the war with Iran that it no longer tries to hide its relations with Washington, it added.

Iran

Explosions in Qom--Tehran radio reported that two bombs exploded in Qom on 3 April, one on a bridge and one at the entrance to Qom's great mosque. The revolution guards later issued a statement, reported by the radio, that said about 30 people were injured. According to the clandestine Radio Iran, at least 40 were seriously injured in the explosions, which occurred while Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri was presiding over Friday prayers at the mosque. The clandestine Voice of Iran radio said members of "national resistance groups" claimed responsibility for the explosions.

Clashes in East, North--Baluchi "freedom fighters" attacked revolution guards on 26 and 27 March, Radio Iran reported, killing 12 guards in the first attack and completely destroying a military column in the second. Citing ENQELAB-E ESLAMI, AFP reported that revolution guards clashed with Mojahedin-e Khalq members on 2 April in the northern town of Katalem, killing one.

Khamene'i on Communist Threat--Addressing Friday prayers in Tehran, Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i said that world radio reports of the dangers of communism in Iran are aimed at causing Muslims in the region to become pessimistic about Iran's Islamic revolution and at giving "imperialists" an excuse to "launch an attack" in the region. In his sermon, broadcast by Tehran radio, Khamene'i said that the United States is Iran's "real foe" and that communism is weak and insignificant in Iran. The people, he added, will never stop hating communists because "before and after" the revolution Marxist elements dealt "many blows" to the people.

Israel

Moshe Dayan announced officially on 4 April the founding of a new list of candidates to run for the Knesset elections, Jerusalem radio reported. The list is to be called the Movement for State Renewal and will be headed by Dayan.

Jordan

Citing a statement to the Saudi newspaper AL-JAZIRAH by an "informed Palestinian source," SPA reported that the Jordanian charge d'affaires in Beirut, who was kidnapped on 6 February, is still alive and living in an Arab country. The source added that those who kidnapped him could offer the Jordanian Government "specific" conditions for his release.

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SYRIAN REMARKS TO LEBANESE MINISTER REPORTED

JN051945 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1700 GMT 5 Apr 81

["Press report" program]

[Excerpts] The crucial political developments in Lebanon in the past 24 hours have demonstrated the unity of the national ranks in the Lebanese arena in confronting the Phalangist-Israeli escalation. They have also demonstrated the unity of the Lebanese-Syrian-Palestinian national stand in confronting the schemes which the Phalangist tools are trying to implement in Zahlah and other areas in Lebanon as part of the plot to Zionize Lebanon and undermine its unity, security and Arabism.

Those who visited the Syrian capital have cited the Syrian officials as telling Lebanese minister Ilyas Harawi, who visited Damascus the day before yesterday, that it is impossible to allow anyone to undermine security in Al-Biqa' and, through it, to directly harm Syria. Damascus categorically rejected Minister al-Hirawi's proposal regarding the entry of the army into Zahlah following the withdrawal of the deterrent forces. Among other things, the Syrian officials told Al-Hirawi: Before we discuss who will enter, you should first agree among yourselves on who will leave Zahlah and on the future of this town in light of the Phalangists" attempts to link it to Al-Matin and then to the Jizzin-Al-'Ayshiyah-Mar 'Uyun line.

The Syrian officials said: We will leave the choice to the residents of Zahlah, for this is an internal responsibility. However, we cannot remain silent regarding the Phalangist scheme, which aims at dragging Zahlah toward it so as to make it a thorn in the side of Al-Biqa', particularly since we are fighting Israel and its experts in Zahlah. It is these Israeli experts who built the Phalangist fortifications on the high lands. The Syrian officials added: The deterrent forces do not want to enter Zahlah. Had they wanted to, they would have done so years ago. What we are concerned with is the opening of the international roads and the liberation of the hills from the militias which are trying to cut off these roads and waylay citizens and the deterrent forces.

The Syrian officials explained that the Phalangist escalation in Zahlah and Beirut is part of the plan drawn up in light of Haig's visit to the region. One of the objectives of this visit is to surround and bleed Syria. If through this visit Haig wants to establish alliances, let him do what he wants. However, we will not allow anyone to harm our security and we will not permit the Phalangist plan to expand.

Damascus also told Al-Harawi that it does not object to the entry of a Lebanese Army force into Zahlah on condition that it is under the command of the Arab Deterrent Forces, similar to the army force in the south which is under the command of UNIFIL. The Syrian officials also told Al-Hirawi that Damascus believes that this army force should be taken from units in Al-Biqa'. Agreement can then be reached on the tasks of this force, particularly the closure of offices and the retention of one office, similar to what happened in western Beirut, and keeping away aliens.

PLO, SYRIAN, LEBANESE NATIONALIST LEADERS MEET

JN041737 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1615 GMT 4 Apr 81

[Text] Within the context of the concentrated political activities to confront the possibilities of the situation in the light of the isolationist explosion of the security situation in the Lebanese arena and the relationship of this explosion to the large Zionist, imperialist design against Lebanon, Syria and the Palestinian revolution, a tripartite meeting was held at noon today in Damascus between the Palestinian revolution delegation led by Brother Leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], the Lebanese Nationalist Movement delegation and the Syrian leadership.

The meeting lasted approximately 5 hours, during which the situation on the Lebanese arena, its future complications and means of confronting them were discussed.

Brother Leader Abu 'Ammar had earlier held a meeting upon arriving in the Syrian capital with 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Syrian deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

'Arafat Comments

JN041820 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1745 GMT 4 Apr 81

[Excerpt] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] said in a statement to Monte Carlo radio that a number of important and serious decisions have been adopted on all levels with regard to the confrontation of the isolationist-Israeli escalation in Lebanon.

In his statement Brother Abu 'Ammar concentrated on the grave meaning of today's chain of Zionist attacks against southern Lebanon, adding that a discussion was held on the way to confront the Zionist aggression and its possible escalation, taking into consideration the most serious eventualities.

Brother 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar, official PLO spokesman, stated that this Syrian-Palestinian-nationalist Lebanese meeting must be considered a decisive turning point with regard to the confrontation of Israel and its agents in Lebanon.

PLO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE DISCUSSES LEBANON

JN031709 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1615 GMT 3 Apr 81

[Text] The PLO Executive Committee met under Brother Leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] this afternoon. Local developments and the escalating Israeli-isolationist military activities in Lebanon, which come in the light of the recent U.S. statements, were discussed during this meeting. The U.S. secretary of state's visit to several states in the area and what is expected to ensue from this visit regarding the Palestinian revolution, the Lebanese nationalist movement, the ADF and the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples were thoroughly reviewed as well.

The PLO Executive Committee also discussed the conditions inside the occupied territories and the steadfastness of our kinfolk in the face of the Zionist designs.

The PLO Executive Committee reviewed Brother Abu 'Ammar's visits to San'a', Aden Saudi Arabia, Tehran, Baghdad and Bangladesh.

The PLO Executive Committee then reviewed the outcome of the 13th session of AAPSO Council which met in Aden recently.

The PLO Executive Committee discussed the outcome of the visits of several of its members to some Arab and foreign states. The agenda of the Palestine National Council, which is due to meet in Damascus on 11 April, was also discussed.

Brother Abu 'Ammar also received today members of the Islamic grouping in the presence of Brothers Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf], Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], Fatah Central Committee members; and Brother Walid Junblatt, chairman of the Lebanese Nationalist Movement's Political Council. Talks during the meeting centered on the latest developments and the abrupt escalation of the military situation by the isolationists in Beirut and Zahlah.

Brother Abu 'Ammar also phoned Brother Ibrahim Qulaylat, chairman of the Command Council of the Independent Nasirite Movement-Al-Murabitun. They exchanged viewpoints on the prevailing conditions in Lebanon in light of the isolationists' escalation of the military situation and their provocations against the nationalist areas. Our correspondent has learned that the two sides' viewpoints were identical.

KUWAIT

MINISTER SEES NO NEED FOR U.S. ACTION IN REGION

LD051706 Kuwait KUNA in English 1500 GMT 5 Apr 81

[Text] Kuwait, 5 Apr (KUNA)--The situation in Lebanon, is now precarious and it is high time for Arabs to realize the vital need for stability, State Minister for Cabinet Affairs 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn said, adding that Kuwait would welcome any such initiative. Answering press questions, the minister said Israel and the elements behind Israel are "putting oil on fire" to escalate tension in Lebanon. This is deliberately done to serve the interest of certain high powers, Husayn told reporters.

We in Kuwait see no reason why the United States should keep active in the region. This would only create an abnormal situation in which we have no interest, he added. Such a situation might lead to conflicts in the region which are likely to cause damage to the international economy, the state minister said.

Commenting on the current visit of U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig to the Middle East, he said if the new U.S. executive is touring the region to acquaint [himself] with facts "we hope he will be able to grasp the full dimensions of the situation, particularly the Palestinian cause."

Commenting on press reports that Kuwait is planning to reduce oil production, the state minister said such a move will be decided by Kuwait alone. "Gone are the days when the oil companies decided on production levels on behalf of oil producing countries," he said. Oil pricing is normally decided through OPEC and by consultations between the producing countries, the minister added. Relations between those countries and the oil companies are purely commercial, Husayn said, adding that Kuwait is maintaining a well-balanced and fully studied oil policy. Our evaluation is conducted within government circles, by experts assigned by the Petroleum Council and no cabinet resolutions are adopted except after full consideration, he added.

ARAB TIMES, AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM VIEW HAIG MIDEAST TRIP

ARAB TIMES

GF041102 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 4 Apr 81 p 6

[Editorial: "Haig in Mid-East"]

[Text] Alexander Haig is a man with a past in American administration affairs. He came to Washington from the top NATO post during the Nixon administration and played such a crucial role during the Watergate proceedings that even the American media used to refer to Haig as "surrogate president." But, in those days, he did not receive a greater role in foreign policy mainly because of the presence in the administration of Dr Henry Kissinger, who virtually dominated foreign affairs because his successes in China and elsewhere.

Now that he is secretary of state, Al Haig has taken the big plunge and has set out on a Kissinger-type shuttle diplomacy in the Middle East, his first venture in this enormously complicate area, which is also plagued with some of the world's intractable conflicts. But his brief during this trip does not appear to be quite clear. It may not be clear even to him. In Cairo, where he is now, he is negotiating about the composition of the peace forces for Sinai, reviewing the progress--or lack of it--in the so-called autonomy talks, and asking President as-Sadat how the so-called Jordanian option could be probed further.

In Saudi Arabia he is said to be seeking improvement of ties, removal of the recent misunderstandings on the arms supply question and seeking Saudi blessing for the so-called Rapid Deployment Force proposal.

In Tel Aviv he would be doing most of the giving and little of the taking. The Israelis are supposed to be "upset" over the U.S.-Saudi arms deal, and so they would have to be soothed with greater American economic and military largesse. The Israelis are also seeking compensation for the loss of settlements in Sinai, and the damage allegedly inflicted on border populations through armed conflicts and raids by the commandos. In political matters too, the Israelis are not in any hurry about either the autonomy talks, or the Jordanian option or even the RDF. They are more concerned about the Iraq-Iran war and the alleged Soviet intrusion in North Africa, etc. And they definitely do not want the Reagan administration to launch any fresh initiative in the Middle East before the Israeli general elections are over.

Thus, it can be seen that Al Haig is up against too many odds and there is nothing in sight that can give him hope of success. At the end of the costly, but unproductive, jaunt in the region, he might have merely to console himself that it was, after all, a "familiarization" trip only.

AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM

LD021236 Kuwait KUNA in English 1017 GMT 2 Apr 81

[From the press review]

[Text] Kuwait, 2 Apr (KUNA)--Extracts from Kuwaiti editorials Thursday:

AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM on Gen. Haig's visit to the region: "The U.S. secretary of state, Gen. Haig, will begin his tour in the region tomorrow by visiting Cairo where he will discover that As-Sadat's regime is more extremist than himself concerning confronting the U.S. (?enemies).

"Haig will also be surprised to see such enthusiasm from those Arabs who are so loyal to the Americans and who now want to prove that they are American agents. But Haig will try to convince them that to liquidate the anti-American Arabs is not so easy, and he will also ask them to be more patient until the conspiracy is ripe enough. This conspiracy is what Gen Haig had prepared and planned for the region and this is why he is coming here."

MINISTER URGES SOLUTION OF LEBANON CRISIS

LD041113 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0745 GMT 4 Apr 81

[Text] Kuwait, 4 Apr (KUNA)--Kuwait today condemned the recent bloody battles in Lebanon. It called for serious efforts to be made to stop the bloodshed and to open a peaceful dialogue to settle the Lebanese crisis.

The minister of state for cabinet affairs, 'Abd al-Aziz Husayn, in a statement published by AL-QABAS, says that "Kuwait maintains its usual position regarding the Lebanese issue, for it supports every sincere effort to take sisterly Lebanon out of its bloody misfortune." He appealed to the disputing sides to return to the dialogue of common sense, and to work sincerely and seriously to spare the bloodshed. Husayn says that Kuwait hopes "the parties concerned will realize the gravity of these clashes and will return to dialogue in order that Lebanon may once again become everyone's country and a model of fraternity.

Call for Arab Initiative

LD051704 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1220 GMT 5 Apr 81

[Text] Kuwait, 5 Apr (KUNA)--Kuwait today called on the Arab states to take an initiative to restore stability to Lebanon and said that it would support any move toward this end. Kuwaiti Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs 'Abd al-'Aziz Husayn said following an ordinary session held by the Kuwaiti Cabinet today that "the events in Lebanon have become thorny and movement has become difficult. Arab countries which appreciate the importance of stability in Lebanon should make a move and Kuwait would welcome any such efforts."

Kuwait yesterday denounced recent bloody battles in Lebanon and called for an ending of bloodshed. The condemnation, which came in the form of a statement by [Minister of State] Husayn, also called for starting a dialogue to settle the Lebanese crisis. [Minister of State] Husayn today accused Israel and "the elements supporting it," of inflaming the crisis in Lebanon "for the realization of their great interests" in that country, which has been shattered by war.

SAUDI ARABIA

FOREIGN MINISTER ON HAIG TOUR, U.S. POLICIES

LD031125 London AL-JAMALLAH in Arabic 4-10 Apr 81 pp 13-18

[Interview granted by Saudi Foreign Minister Amir Sa'ud al-Faysal to Chief Editor 'Abd al-Karim Abu an-Nasr in Riyadh--date not specified]

[Excerpt] [Question] U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig this week will begin a tour that will include the Saudi Kingdom, Jordan, Egypt, and Israel. He will be the first high-level envoy from Reagan's administration to come to the Middle East. Prior to Haig's arrival the U.S. administration defined the outlines of its foreign policy by emphasizing that the priority in the Middle East is confronting Soviet penetration and not the solution of the Arab-Israeli conflict. What is your highness' opinion of this and what stance will Saudi Arabia adopt on this issue during the talks with Haig?

[Answer] I cannot put myself in a position of defining the priorities of U.S. foreign policy and its approach to any problem. By the same token I do not expect the United States or Russia to lay down the priorities that any other state should follow in its foreign policy. But if the issue is the balance between the United States and Russia and the desire to spare the world the calamities of war, then this requires that the fulcrum of this balance be the solution of political problems in various parts of the world, foremost of which is the Middle East region and the problem of the Arab-Israeli conflict within it.

[Question] Reagan's administration has not as yet abandoned the Camp David agreement which Saudi Arabia strongly opposes, as do the great majority of Arab countries. Will you advise Haig to abandon this agreement? What will you tell the U.S. secretary of state in connection with Jerusalem and the Palestine problem?

[Answer] Going back to the Camp David agreement is of no avail. The parties to the agreement have themselves abandoned it because it has come to a dead end. This is logical because the Camp David agreement does not tackle the Arab-Israeli conflict from the correct angle, the Palestinian angle. From the beginning the agreement was destined to reach a stalemate and to cease to exist, just as has happened.

We hope that Reagan's administration, particularly since it is a new administration, will give the Middle East problem the deep consideration it merits in order to arrive at a realistic policy based on settling this problem through the resolution of its fundamental component, namely the Palestine problem.

[Question] Is there a secret plan or new ideas regarding Jerusalem and the fate of the holy city that will be brought up and discussed at the talks with secretary Haig?

[Answer] The attitude of the Islamic countries in general and the Arab countries in particular toward this matter is known and clear. We look forward to the establishment of good relations between the United States on one hand and the Arab and Islamic countries on the other, relations that will be based on the maintenance of peace and stability in the area, particularly since the United States has a major role to play in the achievement of this. The solution--the solution of any conflict--must satisfy the legitimate aspirations of the Arab and Islamic nation in general and the Palestinian people in particular. What the Arab and Islamic states demand does not go beyond the bounds of right and justice. When we ask the United States--which has a major and influential role--to contribute to the solution of the Middle East problem we are demanding the implementation and achievement of international legality and justice based on the right to self-determination, the principles on which the United States itself was established. We see no contradiction between what we expect from the United States and its own interests and principles.

[Question] Has the PLO asked that a "certain message" be conveyed to Reagan's administration during Haig's coming visit to the kingdom?

[Answer] No, the PLO has asked for nothing of this sort.

[Question] But will the question of the PLO and its role be raised in the talks with Haig?

[Answer] If the purpose is to find a role for the PLO, there is a clear Arab and Islamic stand on this matter: The PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. This is a resolution to which the Arab and Islamic countries are committed, and they act accordingly. If Reagan's administration is seeking a solution for the Palestine problem then it must recognize and talk to the party in whose hands lies the key to a Palestinian solution. This party is the PLO. We hope that Reagan's administration will review its policy toward the PLO and will seek to recognize it and to involve it in the consultations it is pursuing in search of a solution.

[Question] Some observers and analysts maintain that the Saudis were disappointed with the United States during Carter's term. What were Carter's major mistakes in the Middle East that you hope will not be repeated under Reagan, and what is the basis for the establishment of good and strong relations between Saudi Arabia and the United States?

[Answer] In general I do not like to rake over past issues. But generally it can be said that the major fault of the policies of previous U.S. administration--is that they have tackled the Middle East problem while avoiding the basic conflict, which is the occupation of Palestinian territories and the expulsion of Palestinians from their homes. The United States is ignoring this fact. The other fact that the United States is ignoring is the nature of the Zionist regime. It is an expansionist regime based on religious and political tenets. It is occupying Arab and Palestinian lands and it is looking toward further expansion and occupation. The truth about this regime has not been taken into consideration and, consequently, all the Western solutions--including the U.S. solutions--are based on unrealistic principles and do not reflect the true situation in the area.

We hope that the United States in dealing with the Middle East problem--particularly as it has placed this problem at the top of its priorities--will proceed from a true diagnosis of the problem, the identification of the aggressor, the establishment of right and the securing of a just and fair solution to the conflict, especially the Palestine problem. The United States is a superpower and has definite principles and responsibilities regarding the world peace and security. We hope that its approach to the Middle East problem will be based on these principles and moral values because there can be no just and lasting solution without achieving these principles and values.

[Question] There is a trend in the West--from Reagan to Margaret Thatcher in Britain--which supports the establishment of a Western force to protect the Arab Gulf, or rather, to protect Western interests in this area. Your Highness, what is your opinion of this trend and what is Saudi Arabia's attitude toward it now that it is to receive Haig and Thatcher this month?

[Answer] I wish the Arab press would avoid the slippery road which the Western press has been taking in its reports and commentaries. What must be said first is that there are no interests in the Gulf other than those of the Gulf states. Dealings between the Gulf states and other states of the world must be based on mutual interests, with the emphasis on balanced dealings and mutual respect, in accordance with international law, as well as on clarity and frankness. Within this context we consider that the security of the Gulf and the interests of the area's states can be protected only by the Gulf states themselves. International conflict can only bring conflicts to the area and will neither achieve nor ensure the security of the Gulf.

I do not know why the West is concentrating on the security of the Gulf, especially when security and stability are interlinked throughout the world, particularly in the Middle East. What is actually threatening the area is Israel and its expansionist, occupationist policy and its displacement of the Palestinians. If there is a desire to establish security and stability in the area then the reality of the Israeli threat must be understood and dealt with. The Gulf is stable, thanks be to God. The best example of this is the Iraq-Iran war. Had such a war occurred in another part of the world, it would have been more widespread and comprehensive.

The Gulf states are fully aware of their responsibilities and can confront all challenges by relying on themselves alone. What is requested of the friendly states in the world is that they secure the legitimate and just demands of the area's states. These demands are providing the area with the necessary arms, military equipment and capabilities to enable it to protect itself and creating a suitable atmosphere in which they avoid exaggeration and provocation when discussing security problems in this area. I return to the Iraq-Iran war and say that this war has in no way affected the commercial dealings between the Gulf states and the states of the world. This is clear proof of the Gulf states' ability to absorb problems by relying solely on themselves. We must not forget that this war broke out at a time when bad relations existed between Iran and the United States and in circumstances of the flagrant Soviet occupation of Afghanistan.

[Question] Do you think there is a Soviet plan to control the oil area?

[Answer] No one can tell with certainty what the Soviet Union's aims are. Generally speaking, however, the flagrant occupation of Afghanistan has increased the doubts and the questions about Moscow's intentions toward the area and, indeed, has provided an indication as to what these intentions are. What is the justification for the Soviet presence in Afghanistan? Is it true that Afghanistan, before it was invaded, was threatening the security and stability of the Soviet Union? This question ought to be answered.

Afghanistan was the closest state to the Soviet Union before the recent coup. There are hundreds of econmics, military, security and similar agreements between the two countries. Was there a foreign presence in Afghanistan before the invasion? No. How then could Afghanistan threaten the security of the Soviet Union? The coup that preceded the Soviet invasion was a communist coup. Therefore there is no justification for the Soviet presence in Afghanistan other than Moscow's having ambitions that go beyond this issue. This is what makes the Afghan issue very serious. A superpower which is responsible for world peace and security has occupied an independent state that is a member of the nonaligned bloc and the Islamic conference. This in itself constitutes a danger and is an indication that such things can be repeated in the future. This is the law of the jungle: "The strong devour the weak."

[Question] Does the Gulf Arab States Cooperation Council represent an application and consolidation of the cooperation that has existed among these states for years? Or is it a step forward, opening new vistas for economic, political, military and security cooperation and coordination among these countries?

[Answer] The Gulf States Cooperation Council embodies both these things. The council proceeds from an advanced stage of cooperation among the area's states and defines new frameworks of cooperation among them. This cooperation was not born today; cooperation in all fields has existed among the Gulf states since long ago. The council merely opens completely new horizons of cooperation. The security of the Gulf has not been discussed separately because security cooperation already exists among the Arab states in general and the Gulf states in particular. We have the joint Arab defense agreement. This agreement is sufficient for the Arab states as a framework for security cooperation. Coordination has existed in the Gulf area for a long time within the framework of the Arab League Charter and the joint defense agreement.

[Question] Is the Gulf Cooperation Council closed to other states or can other countries join it? And under what conditions?

[Answer] What generates cooperation among the council states and makes it imperative is not geography but the similarity of these states and of their conditions and their laws. If the conditions, systems and laws of other states match those of the Gulf Council states, there is no objection to their joining the council.

[Question] Can this council possibly be turned into "a Gulf NATO-type alliance?"

[Answer] No. This is completely out of the question. NATO is based on military confrontation with the Warsaw Pact and on a balance of destructive weapons among the big powers. This is completely different from the Gulf Council both in form and concept.

[Question] Do you think the Gulf Council is adequate for protecting the area?

[Answer] If applied properly, the joint Arab defense agreement is adequate for the defense of the Arab nation. Our hope is that this agreement will be applied on the Arab level in a better manner than it is applied now. We Arabs are lagging in this respect. This is the framework which, I believe, the Gulf states favor on the Arab level. The application of the joint defense agreement must be strengthened and revitalized. We do not wish to classify things and conditions as if a particular peril threatens only the Gulf states and not the Arab nation. Any threat to the Gulf is a threat to the Arab states.

[Question] The possibility of the good officers committee succeeding in ending the Iraq-Iran war is being expressed optimistically. Saudi Crown Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz emphasized Saudi eagerness to see the war brought to an end and peace established when he received the members of the committee, which resumed its task recently. Can you see an end to this war in the near future? How can the obstacles be overcome and a peaceful settlement achieved?

[Answer] The reason for the optimism is the Islamic states' determination to do all in their power to end the war between two Islamic states. This determination was manifested at the recent Islamic Conference summit in Mecca and At-Ta'if. The good officers committee has continued its efforts to end this war. What makes us optimistic is that the Islamic thrust could influence Iraq's and Iran's decision to achieve peace. If this happens, the obstacles which have thus far prevented the achievement of peace will be surmounted. The disagreements between Iraq and Iran can be resolved peacefully if they are dealt with on the basis of conference, fraternity and Islamic cooperation.

[Question] Diplomatic sources are saying that there are two main obstacles to a peace agreement between Iran and Iraq. The first obstacle is the question of Iraq's withdrawal from the Iranian territories either before or after the negotiations. The second obstacle is Iran's insistence on "denouncing" what it terms as the "aggression" on its territories. What is your opinion on this and can these two obstacles be surmounted?

[Answer] I do not wish to enter into the details of solutions for ending the Iraq-Iran war. If the two warring countries are disposed toward peace, the good offices committee will help them in this direction. Finding formulas for solving the conflict and ending the war is no problem or major obstacle.

[Question] Renewed Arab calls have been made, particularly by Sudan and the Sultanate of Oman, to open a new page in the relations between the Arab states and Egypt. Sudan has taken a step in this direction by exchanging ambassadors with Egypt. Your Highness, what is your opinion on this? What are the bases for opening a new page in the relations between Egypt and the Arab states?

[Answer] The disagreement between the Arabs and Egypt is clear and not a secret. This disagreement stems from the fact that Egypt has concluded a separate and unilateral agreement with Israel, contrary to the basic Arab resolutions. The normalization of relations between Egypt and Israel is contrary to the joint Arab defense agreement. Egypt has thus contravened Arab legality and the Arab states' basic and fundamental resolutions on confronting the Israeli aggression. By doing so, Egypt has violated Arab interests and security. The Arabs have the desire to open a new page that will restore Egypt to the Arab arena as a basic pillar in the conflict with Israel. I do not believe that any Arab state rejects this. However, thus far we have not witnessed a move that could restore Egypt to the Arabs. Should this happen, Saudi Arabia particularly would be the happiest Arab state to open a new page.

[Question] Does this mean that it is required Egypt and not the Arab countries take the first step to open this new page?

[Answer] It was Egypt that went against the Arab will and Arab resolutions. This has imperiled Arab security. Any step in this direction must come first from Egypt.

[Question] There are some who say that the question of confronting Soviet influence may entail a rapprochement between Egypt and several Arab countries, including Saudi Arabia. Is this true?

[Answer] The major threat to the area comes from Israel. If we disagree with Egypt on this then I do not see how such a rapproachment can take place. Things do not happen by presumptions. The picture is clear. The danger comes from Israel; it is the one that is seeking armament, consolidating its occupation and constantly threatening the Arabs. Clear evidence of this is its continued attacks on south Lebanon. Israel is continuously trying to expand the scope of its occupation in the Middle East and continously commits aggression against the unarmed peoples in this area.

[Question] How would you evaluate the relations between Saudi Arabia and the Arab countries allied with or friendly with Moscow?

[Answer] We have a special view on this matter. The superpowers have no friends. We would be deceiving ourselves if we thought that our relations with the superpowers are founded on friendship and the principles of friendship. The superpowers have their own interests and strategies; they establish their relations with other countries on the basis of these interests and strategies. We, of course, hope for strong relations with the superpowers or the major powers and that these powers will deal with the problems that concern us on the basis of justice and equality-. We hope so. If these powers adopt a constructive attitude toward our problems then there is no obstacle to establishing good relations with them. Of course, the situation will be negative when relations with the major powers are established on the basis of subservience. This is what we should avoid and this, in the final analysis, is what threatens our interests.

[Question] What are the conditions for the establishment of a dialogue between Saudi Arabia and the Soviet Union?

[Answer] The establishment of dialogue with the Soviet Union? We do not boycott the Soviet Union. Dialogue between Saudi Arabia and the Soviet Union exists and is continuing. Saudi and Soviet diplomats meet in every part of the world. We recognize the Soviet Union and acknowledge its principal and important role in the international arena arising from its superpower status. We hope that the Soviet Union's role in solving the Middle East problems will be influential and positive.

[Question] What about the conditions for the establishment of diplomatic relations between Saudi Arabia and the Soviet Union?

[Answer] So far the circumstances have not been conducive to the exchange of diplomatic relations between us and the Soviet Union.

[Question] How do you evaluate the relations between Saudi Arabia and Iran in particular and Iran and the Gulf states in general?

[Answer] All the countries of the region hope for the establishment of good relations with Iran. The relationship between us and Iran is distinguished by special characteristics not only because we are neighboring countries but also because we are Islamic countries and have a common culture, common history and continuing struggle. If all these factors are combined with the neighborliness and the common blood then they can form a basis on which notable relations can be founded in the interest of the Arabs in general and the Iranian people in particular. This is what we are looking forward to. Anyway.

[Question] How far, in Your Highness' opinion, have the European moves gone toward solving the Middle East crisis? What is Your Highness' evaluation of these moves and what do you expect the European Community to do with regard to the Middle East crisis in general and the Palestine problem in particular?

[Answer] Europe has a particular interest in stability and security in the Middle East. Europe has a special and notable role not only because of its historical ties with the area or because of its geographic location but also because it has a major responsibility for finding a solution to the Middle East problem. We expect the European role in the area to be constructive and to contribute to the search for a formula for a solution based on justice and equity. The iniatitive taken at the European summit in Venice has many positive characteristics. But what we always say is that this initiative lacks the means to implement it. There are many resolutions concerning the Middle East crisis and how to solve it, but what counts is the implementation. We have heard that there are plans to implement the European ideas or proposals concerning the Middle East. At the beginning we were visited by Gaston Thorn (the first European envoy following the Venice summit) in order to crystalize the European ideas. The second European envoy (the Netherlands foreign minister), later visited us to evaluate the situation. But we have not heard officially about this plan or what it is going to be.

We hope that the European plan will be based on the establishment of right and the implementation of international legality in the area. Europe has the capability to play a fundamental and important role in this area to help solve the conflict.

[Question] Do you expect Europe to bring pressure to bear on the United States to change its policy in the Middle East, so that it will in turn bring pressure to bear on Israel?

[Answer] If the United States wishes to play an important role in finding a solution for the Middle East crisis then it must change its stand. The United States has been circumventing the basic factors of this crisis, particularly the Palestinian factor. We hope that Europe, in view of its interests and experience in the affairs of the area, will win U.S. as well as Soviet support for the formulation of a solution to the conflict on the basis of the consideration of its basic factors. We find much that is positive in Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev's recent statement in the Middle East, including, for example, his recognition that Security Council Resolution 242 cannot be considered a basis for solving the Palestine problem.

[Question] Do you expect the West German Government to approve the sale of arms and military hardware, especially modern tanks, to Saudi Arabia, or is it that the various pressures--particularly Zionist pressure--will prevent this. What results do you expect from German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt's visit to Saudi Arabia later this month?

[Answer] Relations between Saudi Arabia and West Germany are developing positively in the interest of both countries and have reached such a level of growth and magnitude as to require adherence to common views on these relations, whose scope is wider than the purely commercial field. We hope that our policy toward one another is based on mutual interests and common views. What matters to us is that there should be no fabricated obstacles between the two countries that would restrict the field of such cooperation. There are no obstacles to the development of these relations, and indeed we are seeking to strengthen them on all levels. We are not asking Germany to deal with us in an illegal manner or in a manner different from the normal relations between the countries of the world. Our quest for political and military cooperation with West Germany does not require any type of illegal methods in dealings between countries. We are not an expansionist state and we do not base our policy on colonialism, expansion or illegal methods. Chancellor Schmidt's visit to Saudi Arabi is part of the series of high-level visits exchanged between the two countries. King Khalid and Crown Prince Fahd have visited West Germany. Schmidt's forthcoming visit is in accordance with a high-level decision that visits by the leaders of both countries should continue. We expect Schmidt's visit to be very useful, particularly since it comes at an important stage in Arab-European relations in general and Saudi-German relations in particular.

[Question] Are any new steps being taken to solve the Afghanistan crisis? Why have the efforts of the committee set up by the Islamic foreign ministers conference in Islamabad and charged with organizing contacts with Moscow, Iran and Pakistan and with the leader of the ruling party in Afghanistan failed to solve this problem peacefully?

[Answer] The recent Islamic summit issued resolutions and directives for a political settlement of the Afghanistan problem. The obstacle to this is not the Islamic stand but Moscow's reluctance to solve the problem. The solution would be very easy if there was the desire for it. It calls for the withdrawal of the Soviet forces and the Afghan people's right to self-determination. But this does ot square with Moscow's stand. Moscow has rejected all the proposed initiatives to solve this crisis peacefully. The Afghan rebels themselves are prepared to accept a peaceful solution of the crisis, but Moscow does not want this.

[Question] In the West voices are still being raised which are saying that a new Arab oil embargo is still a possibility. What is Your Highness' opinion on this and what are the conditions and the circumstances under which the "oil weapon" will be used again?

[Answer] I believe that in order for the question to be more positive it should be asked in the following manner: What are the conditions that would prevent the Arabs from resorting to such things? The answer: When a just peace prevails in the area. This destructive conflict affecting the area is the cause of the disturbed relations between the Arab countries and the countries of the world; it is also restricting the area's ability to play a constructive role in establishing world economic and political security. This is what prompts us to be optimistic that the world community will play a constructive role in finding a just and lasting settlement to the conflict. This is also what we are seeking because the Arab countries have a role to play and the area has great resources and potential which would give it a distinguished and distinctive role to assume.

The Arab countries in general and the oil countries in particular have no policies based on the use of oil as a weapon because in actual fact oil is not a weapon; it is a raw material and the fields of its application are obvious. Oil is not a gun, or a bomb or a tank; it is a vital raw material and a constructive material used in the interests of the world. What disturbs relations between this area and the world is not the Arab countries' decision on how to use the raw materials but rather the constant Israeli challenge.

RADIO, PRESS COMMENT ON SECRETARY HAIG'S TOUR

Riyadh Commentary

LD042236 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 4 Apr 81

[Husayn al-Askari commentary]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig has begun his tour of some capitals of the Middle East, to explain U.S. policy on a number of current international problems.

Haig's visit to the Arab region is important for several reasons, most important of which is the extent of the secretary of state's ability to understand the causes of tension in the region and to identify those who escalate this tension to the stage of danger. Although it is premature to say whether the U.S. secretary of state will succeed or fail in coming up with positive results, this does not prevent us from saying Mr Haig should take into consideration previous U.S. administrations avoidance of the Arab-Israeli conflict, because as the foreign minister, His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, said to AL-MAJALLAH magazine, they dealt with the problem of the Middle East while avoiding the basic conflict--the occupation of Palestine land and the ousting of the Palestinians from their homeland.

Such a statement gives the new U.S. administration the chance to take a new course which depends on understanding, based on justice and even-handedness as a method of dealing with the Arab-Israeli conflict with the aim of establishing good relations between Washington and the Arab world. The success of Haig's visit to a number of Arab capitals depends in particular not only on understanding the essence of the Arab-Israeli conflict but also on the extent of Washington's readiness to deal with the problem from the premise of a real definition of the problem, definition of the identity of the aggressor, the carrying out of justice and finding a just solution to the problem. These are the words of Foreign Minister His Royal Highness Sa'ud al-Faysal.

A fact that cannot be ignored emerges here: the impossibility of finding a just and lasting solution in isolation of the Palestinian people--the essence of the problem and its main party. Without solving this problem, it would be impossible to find any solutions which [words indistinct]. Naturally, no one ignores this, but the fact that it is ignored by some constitutes the main obstacle. And this will be the main topic of discussion between Arab officials and the U.S. secretary of state, who has expressed a desire to get to know the abstract facts from their source.

Press Comment

LD050934 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0700 GMT 5 Apr 81

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 5 Apr (SPA)--Today's papers comment on the Middle East tour of U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig, the deterioration of the situation in the Middle East and the Israeli enemy's role in it, the efforts of the Islamic good offices committee mediating in the conflict between Iraq and Iran and the Saudi Arabian kingdom's care for the comfort of pilgrims.

The newspaper AR-RIYAD writes that, as usual, whenever a senior U.S. official plans to visit Israel, it tries to anticipate his visit by committing sedition in Lebanon and preparing the bomb for explosion in his face to corroborate--as its radio did yesterday--its claims that all it was doing was safeguarding its own security and protecting the Lebanese Phalangists from annihilation. The Israeli enemy, the paper adds, thus forgets the various arts of destruction that he and his agents in Lebanon specialize in and their attempts to annihilate Palestinians wherever they find them.

The paper adds that the enemy pays no attention to international concern or to the embarrassment his satanic actions cause to the American and French positions. The Americans and the French, the paper adds, have shown extreme concern over the situation in Lebanon and the very serious conditions that have developed there.

AR-RIYAD then calls on Alexander Haig to clarify the situation and to expose the Zionist motives behind it. It also calls for speeding up the tackling of the situation in Lebanon in a decisive, serious manner, now that it has been established that there can be no compromises as long as Israel continues to set the fire blazing in Lebanon and to provoke all the parties there to fight each other.

The paper affirms that calm and stability will never return to Lebanon and its government will never be able to impose its sovereignty until Israel stops bolstering its agents inside and outside Lebanon and stops pushing them toward death, instead of toward life.

Israel's constant wailing, particularly today, before Haig, the paper says, can no longer be believed and world public opinion can no longer be deceived by Israel's years and tricks because Israel today has been working for the destruction of more than just one side in Lebanon. Israel's true face has been exposed and it cannot continue to camouflage its policy of terrorism some times and practice it openly at other times.

'UKAZ calls on Alexander Haig to help restore the area's confidence in the U.S. administration by affirming its desire for a just peace based on complete understanding of legitimate Arab rights. The paper affirms the kingdom's adherence to the policy it declared at the third Islamic Conference summit in Mecca: a policy that is neither pro-East nor pro-West. Thus, the paper writes, the kingdom has delineated the realistic course that could save the Arab and Islamic worls and indeed the Third World from the pitfalls of falling into the nets and umbrellas of protectionism. The only way to evade the policies of umbrellas, the paper adds, is the consolidation of Arab Islamic solidarity on sound bases, through the securing of weapons from any source, while preserving the sovereignty and independence of the countries. In conclusion the paper says: Let the unification of Arab and Islamic ranks be the umbrella that protects them against any danger.

REPORTAGE, COMMENTARIES ON HAIG VISIT, TALKS

'Ali Greeting

NC041412 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1358 GMT 4 Apr 81

[Text] Cairo, 4 Apr (MENA)--U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig arrived in Cairo this afternoon on a 2-day official visit on the first leg of a tour during which he will visit Israel, Jordan and Saudi Arabia. Haig was received at the airport by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali.

After welcoming the U.S. secretary of state, Kamal Hasan 'Ali said that this is Haig's first visit to Egypt, adding that the talks between the Egyptian and U.S. sides will begin this evening and will deal with an exchange of views on international problems and the Middle East problem.

'Ali expressed the hope that what will take place in the upcoming stage in the Middle East will be learned during these talks. 'Ali said that the most important issued that will be discussed at today's talks is mutual cooperation between the two countries.

Arrival Statement

NC041624 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1505 GMT 4 Apr 81

[Text] Cairo, 4 Apr (MENA)--U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig made a statement at the airport in which he expressed his happiness at visiting Egypt. He said: My visit to the Middle East is of great significance, but my stopover in Cairo is of greater significance.

The U.S. secretary of state paid tribute to the civilization and history of Egypt and said that Egypt's contribution to civilization is ancient and legendary.

Referring to Egypt's experiment under the leadership of President Anwar as-Sadat, Haig said: Egypt has embarked on a unique experiment combining science and faith for the development and dignity of mankind. Haig added that President as-Sadat's policy aims at achieving development, stability and security for the whole area. He said: I would like to tell you that President Ronald Reagan shares this view with me. He said that the U.S. President personally maintains that a strong Egypt is absolutely indispensable for peace and stability in the Middle East.

Haig paid tribute to President Anwar as-Sadat, describing him as a practical leader who enjoys strong insight and who was able, through his visit to Jerusalem and through Camp David, to achieve peace between Egypt and Israel--something that was considered a distant dream. He said: We are here to benefit from President as-Sadat's wisdom and learn how the United States can contribute and cooperate in strengthening security in the area. This is what prompts us to continue our participation in the peace talks within the Camp David framework and to deepen the friendship between the Egyptian and American peoples.

Concluding his statement, Haig expressed his regret that his stopover in Cairo is accompanied by the increased threat to peace and stability in Europe.

Mubarak Reception

NC041732 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1720 GMT 4 Apr 81

[Text] Cairo, 4 Apr (MENA)--This evening, Vice President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received at his home the U.S. secretary of state, Alexander Haig. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali and the U.S. ambassador in Cairo, Mr Alfred Atherton, also attended the meeting.

Talks Begin

NC041948 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1915 GMT 4 Apr 81

[Text] Cairo, 4 Apr (MENA)--The Egyptian-U.S. talks began tonight. The Egyptian side was led by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali and the U.S. side by Secretary of State Alexander Haig, who arrived in Cairo this afternoon. The talks began with a meeting confined to Kamal Hasan 'Ali and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali, for the Egyptian side, and Alexander Haig and U.S. ambassador in Cairo Alfred Atherton, for the U.S. side.

After 20 minutes members of the Egyptian and U.S. delegations joined the meeting. The Egyptian side included Dr Usamah al-Baz, Ambassador Salah Sha'rawi, Ambassador 'Imran ash-Shafi-i, Ambassador 'Amru Musa, Ambassador 'Ismat Haman, Minister Plenipotentiary Fawzi al-Ibrashi and some aides. The U.S. side included many personages accompanying the secretary of state, including James Buckley, deputy assistant secretary for security affairs and technology; Vernon Walters, first assistant to the secretary of state; M. Nicholas, assistant secretary for Middle East and South Asian affairs; Dean Fisher, the official spokesman of the Department of State; Gordon Berg, assistant executive secretary; Jeffrey Kemp, member of the National Security Council; and Michael Sterner, deputy assistant secretary of state.

At 1825, Kamal Hasan 'Ali and Alexander Haig went to meet with Vice President Mubarak Husni Mubarak. Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali continued his meeting with members of the Egyptian and U.S. delegations.

MENA has learned that tonight's Egyptian-U.S. talks dealt with a comprehensive review of three important subjects: 1) the Middle East situation and the peace process, including the question of the multinational force and how to further the peace efforts; 2) a comprehensive review of the subject of stability and foreign interference in the area; 3) bilateral relations.

Following his meeting with members of the Egyptian and U.S. delegations, which lasted about 90 minutes, Dr Butrus Ghali said that during the talks Egypt presented its stand regarding several subjects, this being the first official meeting and discussion between Egypt and the new U.S. administration. He said: The Egyptian side emphasized several matters: 1) that Egypt is a nonaligned state and that this must be taken into consideration in any strategy; 2) that the Palestine question is the core and basis of the Middle East problem and that all efforts must be made to solve it in a manner securing the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination; 3) that Egypt is linked with the Arab states, Africa and the nonaligned group and has its position among them and that this must be taken into consideration; 4) this is connected with the Sinai peacekeeping force. The Egyptian side welcomes a UN peacekeeping force. Efforts must be made in this framework, but if we are not successful, we would have proved that we were unable to achieve it because of the arrogance of the Soviets and the rejectionist states. We would then seek a multinational force, which would be a symbolic one and which would have no connection with the general U.S. strategy in the world--the Rapid Deployment Force and security in the Gulf.

Dr Ghali said that the Egyptian side also outlined Egypt's views on various developments in the Middle East problem, Israel's stands hindering the negotiations and the need for Israel to build up trust with the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Ghali said that during the discussions Alexander Haig reviewed the stands of the new U.S. administration regarding various questions.

MENA has learned that the U.S. side expressed and affirmed the desire of the new U.S. administration to maintain the peace process and adopt a firm attitude toward international questions. During his current visit to the Middle East Haig is interested in knowing the views of the states in the area on various current issues.

Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali will give a dinner banquet tonight in honor of Alexander Haig and his delegation at At-Tahrir club that will be attended by several state officials.

Joint Press Conference

NC051716 Cairo MENA in English 1615 GMT 5 Apr 81

[Quotation marks as received]

[Text] Cairo, 5 Apr (MENA)--President Anwar as-Sadat and U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig held a joint press conference after a two-hour meeting at President as-Sadat's rest house at the Nile Barrages today. At the beginning of the press conference, President as-Sadat made a statement.

After apologising for having a "nasty cold," President as-Sadat said:

"Ladies and gentlemen of the press: "Let me seize this opportunity to express my gratitude to President Reagan for sending our dear friend Secretary Haig to the area here at this precise moment. First of all, I wanted him to know how we live in Washington and thank God President Reagan is in good shape and performing his duties. I wanted my friend to convey to our dear American people who we live the anxiety with them with all our feeling. This was a happy occasion. It is also a very happy occasion to meet with a dear friend, Secretary Haig, after he was appointed secretary of state. I am not exaggerating when I say that he is the proper man in the proper position at the proper moment. It is not my idea alone. Last February I was addressing the European Parliament and I felt the same thing towards Secretary Haig and I was very happy and proud, because Haig is friend, to hear this from the Europeans. It is time that the United States resumed its role as the first superpower that is responsible after peace all over the world. Secretary Haig has been known among us all as a man of vision and his appointment has filled us really with joy.

We followed the very strenuous hours at the meetings of the Senate and the Congress. We were overjoyed to see the U.S. State Department assumed by a person with insight and a man of decision, like my friend Haig. Today we had very fruitful and constructive discussions. We have spent together two hours. We have spent also with our delegations the necessary time to let each other know the position of the other in the peace process.

As I have said often, we could not have achieved anything without the United States acting as a full partner. That is what I told my friend Secretary Haig. I am happy to tell you that I found him fully acquainted with all the details.

We must not forget that he had already his share in the peace process since 1974. I found him fully acquainted with all the details, and I was also very happy to survey the situation in the area and in various parts of the world. And as I told you it has been a very fruitful and positive discussion and exchange of views.

On the bilateral side, I need not tell you that we enjoyed marvellous relations between the two countries--the United States and Egypt. I seize this opportunity also to ask Secretary Haig and the distinguished delegation with him to convey our gratitude to the (?American people) and the President and the Senate and the Congress for their understanding and the help we received from them.

For us we feel indebted to them and all I can say is this. Like I told Secretary Haig and his distinguished delegation that they can count on us as true friends. We shall always be with them either in the dark hours or in the bright ones. Secretary Haig is a man we admire and I told him we shall always be happy to receive him here in Egypt whenever it is convenient for him and let me ask him to convey to President Reagan all our very best wishes and congratulations for his safety and convey to the gallant American people our admiration and our true friendship. Thank you very much.

U.S. Secretary of State A. Haig made a statement in which he said:

"On behalf of President Reagan, the American delegation now visiting your country and of course myself we express our gratitude for the extremely fruitful discussions we had with your prominent officials.

"The discussion I had with you this morning clearly underlines the fundamental conversion of the American and Egyptian polices with respect first to the peace process. This administration, I know I speak for President Reagan, will continue to participate as full partner." Second, for the clarity and great value of the strategic appraisal which you provided to me, Mr Prsident, this morning which I can confirm closely coincides with President Reagan's own world views. And thirdly Mr President to thank you the certainly recognised visionary statesmen of our time, the man who made peace in the Middle East possible, the man who has a clear of mind statesmanship and its relationship with binding friendship. There is a strong relationship between the two countries.

"After all we came here to drink of your wisdom, to take your counsel and to find facts on the three areas I have just touched upon, the peace process, the strategic situation in the area and globally and that important fundamental area, Egyptian-American relationship on the bilateral side. And in every part of our discussion the outcome has been highly successful and I know we were very pleased. Thank you.

President as-Sadat and Secretary Haig then answered the newsmen and correspondents' questions:

Question to President as-Sadat: Could you give us a specific response to the question: What did you accomplish in your meeting as regards some of the outstanding questions in the peace process, the strategic relations between the U.S. and Egypt over the Soviet expansionism.

The president: We have discussed every item that you mentioned thoroughly and I can tell you that we have reached agreement in certain points and we have left to our aides certain points for the preparation, but as I told you both of us are optimistic for the future.

Question to Mr Haig: Have you discussed the Palestinian question and the possibility of the resumption of the autonomy talks and the items concerning the Middle East peace process, you had in mind?

Haig: "As I said we came here to learn first hand the views of the parties. With respect to the peace process, I think my discussions with President as-Sadat clarified for me concerns of Egypt with respect to the process and I think we have carried forward in the context of convergence views between the United States position today and President as-Sadat's position, and all of this suggest to me a reason for some optimism that the process will continue in a constructive way. And I think as one looks over his shoulder, at the past history of the situation, one can only remark that the achievements already accomplished have been remarkable and historic and that that momentum must continue, and we are dedicated to do so both in the context of the autonomy talks to the period ahead in the context of peace-keeping arrangements in the Sinai which will permit the complete withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Sinai by the April 1982 deadline. And I think that our discussions here provide the bases for optimism as we look at the challenges of the future. Thank you.

Question to President as-Sadat: Mr President, following your discussions will Egypt accept armed American military units in the multinational force?

President as-Sadat: Let me tell you this first. We shall be going to the United Nations. Maybe you remember when we went to the Security Council for the redeployment of the United Nations forces according to the peace treaty between us and Israel, the Soviet Union threatened to use the veto. Well we shall be going to the United Nations. After that what you have already asked will be raised and it will depend upon what will come out all position on the side of the Soviet Union. [as received]

Question to President as-Sadat: Did you discuss bases in Egypt?

President as-Sadat: For sure we did not discuss this because my position in this is known and Secretary Haig has already declared his position in the hearings before the Congress and the Senate. For that there was no need to raise it, it is not a matter to be discussed.

Question to Haig: There have been reports that Soviet President Brezhnev is going to the Warsaw summit. Do you see this as a development signifies a worsening of the Polish situation or has it eased since you left the country?

Haig: I think the situation remains more tense than it has been. We have been watching the Soviet military steps with growing concern. Really this mini-summit, if you refer to it that way, may be an important occasion. With respect to future Soviet actions, in respect to the Polish situation I mainly want to reiterate what we have stated and restated, that any Soviet interventionism in Poland or any internal repression will have far-reaching consequences in East-West relations both in scope and in time.

Question to Mr Haig: Do you agree with the proposition that the instability in the area need to put more stress on handling the Palestinian question as very important in order to keep stability?

Haig: I would like to make this the last question because we have a schedule to make. I just want to make a comment in respect to your question. I comment on it repeatedly. We talked about addressing a strategic consensus in the Middle East and in a global sense as well. Some have interpreted that as a lessening American interest in the peace process itself. In the resolution of a long-standing historic problem nothing could be further from the truth. We continue to maintain the firm objective of continuing the momentum of the peace process as full partners, as I have mentioned. But we see also the fundamental inter-relationship between the sense of security and the convergence of strategic thinking here in this area as a fundamental catalyst to making the peace process more successful and to achieving the momentum we seek. So these are not contradictory but they are mutually reinforcing objectives.

Question: Handling this simultaneously or you put more emphasis on security before? [sentence as received]

Haig: Not at all, we do not put more emphasis on either but on priority on both. These are twin objectives.

3 Apr Radio Commentary

NC032040 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 3 Apr 81

[Usamah 'Abd al-Ghani commentary: "Agreement, Disagreement on Priorities in Interest of Middle East Question's Elements"]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig will leave Washington today, beginning his first Middle East tour. Haig will start his tour by holding talks in Cairo. Naturally, these talks will center on giving momentum to the Middle East peace efforts and on discussing the question of the foreign threats to the area.

Although the new U.S. administration has not yet completed drawing up of the final visualization of the stand it plans to take regarding the Middle East question in general, it is clear that this administration desires to tackle the Arab-Israeli conflict within the framework of a more comprehensive plan for confronting foreign penetration in the area to protect the big strategic interests which exist in the area and which constitute the basis of Western civilization and its existence.

In this respect some U.S. experts have expressed their belief that the Arab-Israeli conflict and specifically the Palestine question, in spite of their importance, are not worthy of priority discussion because they are not closely attached to Western strategic interests in the area vis-a-vis the dangers that might arise as a result of the threats facing these interests.

We agree with the U.S. view on the dangers of foreign threats--we were the first to draw attention to these dangers. However, we disagree with some parts of this visualization of attaching priorities to the necessary elements for confronting these dangers. We would like to note in this context that Egypt, in realizing the dangers of the foreign threats to the area, has welcomed the idea of giving military facilities to the United States to protect itself and to protect Egypt's sister Arab and Islamic states, particularly since the foreign aggression against Afghanistan confirmed that the area needs a balanced stand by the other side to confront and check these threats. In this respect, Egypt is continuing to strengthen its military power. It has received a favorable response from the United States and its friendly people, and sensed from the West in general, an understanding that Egypt's power is a basic matter in maintaining the area's security and interests.

All of this is true and worthy of interest. However, the matter calls for drawing attention to a fact that cannot be ignored: The problem must not be visualized merely as that of a land containing big strategic interests that are subject to foreign threats and thus demanding the massing of power, to the exclusion of the domestic problems in the area. In our view, such a visualization lacks the most important elements of the crisis--namely, the close link between these domestic problems and the foreign threats.

Moreover, this visualization lacks a sound view of the main concerns of the peoples in the area. It is certain that the main concern of the majority of the peoples in the area is that of a comprehensive solution of the Arab-Israeli conflict and a just solution of the Palestine question and the liberation of Jerusalem.

A senior U.S. official at the Department of State has confirmed, prior to U.S. Secretary of State Haig's visit, that the U.S. Government abides by the Camp David agreements for solving the Arab-Israeli conflict. This is good. It is certain that realizing the importance of resolving this conflict and achieving a just solution of the Palestine question by setting priorities for the different elements of the Middle East question will be among the most important reasons for achieving security in the area and protecting it against foreign dangers.

4 Apr Radio Commentary

NC041826 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 4 Apr 81

[Bahiyy ad-Din Shu'ayb commentary: "The Palestinian Issue Is the Key to Gulf Security"]

[Text] The choice of Cairo as the first stop in U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig's tour shows that Washington believes that the peace issue is the key to political activity in the Middle East and that Cairo is the key to this activity.

In receiving the U.S. secretary of state today, we do so with an open heart and mind. We shall listen carefully to what he has to say. Undoubtedly, the dialogue will be constructive and fruitful in light of the scores of U.S. statements that have been issued regarding the Middle East issues, Gulf security and the mounting Soviet danger.

The Reagan administration has recently spoken much about the issue of Gulf security. Those who shape U.S. strategy have given priority to this issue, and any other problems are considered secondary and as being able to be settled without difficulty.

As a matter of course we share U.S. concern for Gulf security. We even go further and say that in the past 2 years, and before the new U.S. administration took office, Egypt warned against upsetting the balance of power in the Gulf area and that this imbalance would constitute a serious danger to the countries of the area and their political stability and even to the flow of oil to the Western world. So that the Egyptian analysis of what is happening in the Gulf area would not be mere words and a claim to understand the events, President as-Sadat announced that Egypt is fully prepared to grant all possible military facilities to the United States if any Arab or Islamic state facing the danger of direct or indirect foreign aggression seeks its help. Some have tried to distort President as-Sadat's statements about these facilities. These professional political prattlers have spoken much about so-called permanent and mobile bases. But it has become clear from their analyses that they still view international relations and the peoples' interests with the standards of the 60's, making them fall into miscalculations not only in political analysis but also in understanding the Egyptian people, who reject all forms of imperialism and bases.

In speaking about granting military facilities to the United States the Egyptian political leadership linked this issue with the security and stability of all the peoples of the Arab and Islamic nations. We think no one disagrees with us on this issue.

Furthermore, in speaking about military facilities and Gulf security Cairo does not do so without paying consideration to the stability of the Middle East, the restoration of all the national rights of the Palestinian people and the withdrawal of Israel from every inch of occupied Arab territory. The connecting link in Gulf security strategy, as it is viewed by Cairo, is Palestine. If the Palestinian problem is not solved there can be no security in the Gulf or anywhere else.

Therefore, the United States must act quickly so that the Palestinian people can place their feet on the start of the road to full autonomy. If this can be accomplished it would be possible to extinguish the fire that is raging in Lebanon, and then all the efforts of the peoples of the area can be mobilized to provide security to the Gulf.

This is Egypt's strategic line, and we think that Mr Haig can well understand it, because before becoming secretary of state he was NATO commander in chief. He was then described by European leaders as having a creative strategic mind. In this capacity he can understand the complementary dimensions of the situation in the Middle East and in the Gulf and he can understand that this linkage will lead to all the parties achieving their supreme interests and at the same time providing security and peace to the whole world.

Newspaper Commentaries

NC042259 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2235 GMT 4 Apr 81

[Text] Cairo, 4 Apr (MENA)--In their Sunday editions Cairo newspapers unanimously stress the importance of the discussions U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig is having with Egyptian officials at the outset of his Middle East tour.

AL-AKHBAR says in this respect that President Anwar as-Sadat will hold important political discussions tomorrow with Haig, regarding the establishment of security in the area and the area's ability to confront Soviet interference and amibitions in the Middle East.

Referring to the bases that the Soviets have set up in the area, the paper says that it is natural that Haig is carrying a practical U.S. plan for confronting these bases. AL-AKHBAR says that the U.S. plan will be consistent in its method and objective with what President as-Sadat has announced and called for several times--namely, the need to expedite serious action aimed at confronting the Soviet interference.

AL-AHRAM notes Haig's statement that the United States believes that a strong Egypt is a basic condition for securing security in the area and that President as-Sadat's initiative and the signing of the peace agreement prompts the United States to assume its role and participate in achieving security and stability in the area.

AL-AHRAM says that Egypt's being strong in peace will further help in liquidating and ending the Arab-Israeli conflict because this will confirm to all the rejectionists that peace is the only road for restoring rights and solving the Palestine problem. Leaving these fateful issues unresolved or near a solution, but without arriving at a final stand, will subject the security of the area to constant threat of explosion or to exploitation by a foreign power claiming to be supporting Arab rights, and the Palestinians in particular.

The paper adds that the area's security will be achieved by providing all means of stability and by removing the causes of explosion, the foremost of which is not only the Palestine question but also the wrong and unjust situation that southern Lebanon is living through. Southern Lebanon has become a stage for exploiters and for the extremists' threats. It would be illogical and unreasonable that the goal would be to achieve the security of the Gulf while Lebanon and its government, people and army were being subjected to raids, fragmentation and lack of sovereignty. It would be unreasonable that security be established while Israel builds it settlements and fortifications in the West Bank and Gaza, annexes Arab Jerusalem and opens a canal between the Mediterranean and the Dead Seas, thus splitting the territory of Gaza.

AL-AKHBAR Editorial

NC050846 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0610 GMT 5 Apr 81

[From the press review]

[Text] In today's editorial under the heading "What Does Haig Carry to Cairo," AL-AKHBAR says that President as-Sadat is scheduled to meet [with Secretary of State Haig] at his resthouse in Al-Qanatir al-Khayriyah today for important political talks on establishing security in the area and its ability to confront the Soviet interference and its alarming ambitions in the Middle East.

AL-AKHBAR adds that the most important points of the talks will be the question of security in the Red Sea--a serious question which does not only concern Egypt, Somalia and Sudan but also Saudi Arabia, Jordan, and all the states in the Arabian Peninsula. All this will be discussed by President as-Sadat and U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig.

The paper explains that the U.S. secretary's arrival in Cairo indicates the first stage of a political tour which he is undertaking in the Middle East since his appointment to the State Department in President Reagan's government. There is no doubt that he has with him a new plan of work and a new view on the nature of the situation in the Middle East and the necessary action to confront the Soviet interference, which has been able to establish bases in the area and has actually begun making moves, through its agents, from these bases.

America has been preoccupied with its elections, and because of this it adopted a pacifying attitude and conformed to a policy of words. Thus, Haig's trip to the Middle East comes at a time when it has become necessary to adopt a firm stand to confront the Soviet contentiousness that is being carried out by Al-Qadhdhafi and others. The Arab states in the area have now become convinced of the need to confront the Soviet interference, after having shown an indifferent attitude toward it.

The paper adds: On this basis the talks of the U.S. secretary of state will take place in Cairo, Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Israel.

The paper concludes by saying that the talks will have important and serious results with a view to rapid implementation, since in its new policy the United States has shown eagerness and the Arab states in the area are very anxious that this be so.

'ALI RETURNS FROM, COMMENTS ON SCANDINAVIAN TOUR

NC032010 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 3 Apr 81

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali returned to Cairo tonight following a tour he started on 17 March, during which he visited Norway, Denmark, Finland, Belgium and Sweden.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali has said that the visits were important and that he achieved important political and economic objectives. In respect to the political objective, he said, the visit's importance was owing to the fact that it was the first visit by an Egyptian foreign minister to the north European states in many years. This called for holding direct contacts with these states, which carry political weight and have old historical relations with Egypt.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali added: At the direction of President as-Sadat following his statement at the European Parliament, there was a need to visit the Scandinavian countries to outline Egypt's viewpoints to their governments and people.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali added that during his talks he asked these states to assume a role furthering the peace efforts, like the role the 10 EEC member states are assuming. He said that he received understanding of the Egyptian stand and full support of this stand and of Egypt's peace efforts. He also achieved an identity of views concerning various questions.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali said that the visit gave Egypt political returns that could be discussed with the United States at the talks to be held tomorrow with U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig. He added that there was a clear understanding of the dimensions of the European role--namely, that it will not be inconsistent with Camp David but will complement it.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali said that the peace efforts which Egypt initiated with the participation of the United States will be the basis for furthering the peace process in relation to the European countries and the whole international community.

BRIEFS

FOREIGN MINISTRY APPOINTMENT--Cairo, 4 Apr (MENA)--A ministerial decision has been issued appointing Ambassador Salah ad-Din Muhammad ash-Sha'rawi a first under secretary of the Foreign Ministry. The new first under secretary at present occupies the post of supervisor of the office of the deputy prime minister and foreign minister and of the minister of state for foreign affairs. He had previously been Egypt's ambassador to Mexico. The other first under secretary at the Foreign Ministry is Dr Usamah al-Baz. [Text] [Cairo MENA in Arabic 1205 GMT 4 Apr 81 NC]

RELATIONS WITH U.S. SHOULD STAY AT 'PRESENT STATE'

LD051400 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1215 GMT 5 Apr 81

[Text] Kuwait, 5 Apr--Iraq today expressed reservations about the resumption of its relations with the United States. These relations have been severed since the Arab-Israeli war of 1967. Iraqi Foreign Minister Sa'dun Hammadi said that Iraq feels that these relations "should remain at their present state" for the time being. Dr Hammadi was speaking prior to this departure from Kuwait today after delivering a message from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to Kuwait Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah, which he said dealt "primarily with current Arab conditions."

Replying to a question about the future of relations between Iraq and the United States, he said that there is nothing new in these relations and the situation is as it has been. He added that (?the United States) wishes to resume these relations, but we feel that for the time being the relations must remain as they are now.

In reply to another question Dr Hammadi said he knew nothing about Egyptian reports that Egypt has permitted European military equipment destined for Iraq to pass through Egyptian airspace. He added: "If any equipment is coming to us, why should it pass through the Egyptian airspace? What is so special about Egyptian airspace? All the world's skies are open to us, and Egypt is not the only route." [words indistinct]

ANTI-EGYPT RADIO SAYS HAIG LOOKING FOR NEW ACCORDS

JN031027 Baghdad Voice of Egypt of Arabism in Arabic 2035 GMT 2 Apr 81

['Abd al-Mun'im al-Ghazali Commentary]

[Excerpts] Haig is due in Cairo Saturday and will later visit Israel and other Arab countries. Why? Is the U.S. administration planning a new study on the area to chart its policy based on this study? Some are calling us to excuse the U.S. administration because it is ignorant of the situation and it needs some time to acquaint itself with the real situation in the area and to get to know the truth behind the Arab-Israeli conflict. Alexander Haig's visit is not to study a situation with which the new U.S. administration is not aquainted. Its specific aim is to reach new accords in the service of U.S. strategy while the United States is endeavoring to forcibly impose a solution for the Arab-Zionist conflict and to achieve a direct U.S. and Western presence in parts of the Arab homeland and the Middle East. This presence will provide full protection to Zionist security, and at the same time, will transform the area into a U.S. base for use in the international conflict between the U.S. and the USSR. In other words, partiality will be forcibly imposed on the area in favor of the United States.

The clear-cut and specific aim of Haig's visit is to stress the establishment of U.S. military bases on the Egyptian Red Sea coast and in the Sinai, in addition to the erection of early warning stations and airbases and the presence of U.S. troops under the umbrella specified in the Washington treaty as the peacekeeping force. U.S. troops will also be stationed in the Etan and ('Atyun) airports which the Zionist enemy intends to hand over to the United States. Alexander Haig knows that As-Sadat will meet all his demands. His collapsing regime needs U.S. support. The Egyptian regime has already received the price.

Those who are resisting the Zionist presence and Camp David on the Nile River banks are now resisting the new U.S. plan. Resistance will never die despite the fierce and vicious onslaught; it will intensify and develop despite all attempts to obscure the bullets of the Arab Egypt organization [tanzim misr al-'urubah] which have wiped out two Zionists near the Holiday Inn in the pyramids. This incident shows that the resistance will maintain its momentum and the U.S.-Zionist enemy, along with all traitors, is doomed to failure.

CABINET CONSIDERS TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED WITH HAIG

JN051239 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 5 Apr 81

[Text] The Cabinet, in its session this morning, discussed the topics that the government will discuss with U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig during his visit to Jordan that will begin tomorrow.

The question of the continued Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people and Arab territories and the repercussions of this aggression will be at the core of the discussions, since these matters affect the other causes and problems of interest to the area.

AR-RA'Y SPECULATES ON SUBSTANCE OF HAIG TALKS

JN030735 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 3 Apr 81

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Haig and the Arab Vision, "the newspaper AR-RA'Y writes: U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig today begins his first foreign tour since he assumed his post. He will visit Egypt, Israel, Jordan and Saudi Arabia and will holds talks with senior officials.

Obviously, the Arab-Israeli conflict will constitute the common denominator in these talks, though there are other bilateral topics, such as the formation of the UN supervision force in the Senai which concerns Cairo; Israeli superiority in the arms race--Israel intends to render this optic a principal provision in the talks--and the U.S. aircraft deal which concerns Saudi Arabia.

Also, it is likely that the deteriorating situation in Lebanon might be touched on by Haig and the Israeli officials, particularly since the latter intend to utilize this tragic situation to the utmost in order to obscure the essence of the Arab-Israeli conflict represented by the Palestinian issue.

Continuing, the paper says: Although the Arabs do not wish to anticipate events and to speculate on what Haig would say, the reports indicate that he will put forth the idea of confronting Soviet expansion in the area as an issue enjoying priority status in U.S. foreign policy. Also, the U.S. stand on the European initiative will be touched on in Haig's talks.

AR-RA'y says: At any rate Haig's remarks on these two topics and others will be made clear in time. Nevertheless, this does not prevent us from recalling that continued Israeli aggression against the Arab nation and slackness in finding a just and all-out solution for the issue in a manner that would enable the Palestinian people to exercise their national rights are the two constituents of the hotbed menacing peace and stability in the area before anything else.

Also, His Majesty King Husayn's statement to NEWSWEEK expressed the hope that the new U.S. administration would not be a captive of previous stands of previous administrations, and also when he expressed the hope that this administration would enjoy a new vision and would work for the sake of U.S. interests.

In conclusion, AR-RA'Y says: Recalling these two points is meant to explain the Arab viewpoint. It would be useful for the U.S. secretary of state to understand its seriousness and importance and to benefit from its natural conclusion, to the effect that the Camp David march has become pointless. Perhaps Haig will manage to see the Arab viewpoint from the U.S. perspective.

PAPER VIEWS U.S. ROLE IN ENDING LEBANESE CRISIS

JN050855 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 5 Apr 81

[From the press review]

[Text] Commenting on U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig's tour of the area, AD-DUSTUR says: On the eve of the visit by the U.S. secretary of state, the area appears to be living in a state of tension unwitnessed since the October 1973 war. The situation in Lebanon is exploding in more than one area with the appearance of two new factors which may result in the new explosion expanding and spreading to other areas outside Lebanon. It is true that the bloody fighting currently taking place in Zahlah is not the first of its kind. The same applies to the fighting in Beirut. It is also true that the Israeli raids against different Lebanese areas have continued since the outbreak of the Lebanese civil war as well as the shelling by Sa'd Haddad's forces of various areas in southern Lebanon. It is also true that the Lebanese crisis becomes more acute and explosive every time a plan to end Lebanon's tribulation looms on the horizon. The deployment of the Lebanese Army in southern Lebanon was the last of these plans which brought a glimmer of hope that the darkness in Lebanon could be dissipated. The nature of the new explosion, however, is different. In the past the ADF was Lebanon's hope that peace could be restored if the warring parties went beyond the proper bounds or the official Lebanese authorities failed to contain the situation. Things, however, have changed because the ADF now is a party to the dispute.

AD-DUSTUR adds: Thus, the picture becomes more clear. The Lebanese crisis has acquired larger dimensions and can no longer be contained by local forces. Therefore, an explosion threatens the area unless a bigger force, capable of containing the fire, comes from outside Lebanon. Will Gen Alexander Haig be capable of providing this?

If we can view the Lebanese crisis separately from the crisis in the area, we can say that the United States has always tried to play a pacifying role in the Lebanese arena. This, however, loses its meaning when we find that Israel is the source of the recurrent aggressions against the area, particularly against Lebanon. The United States finds itself before a difficult choice: It either has to give up its policy on Lebanon and consequently open the way for regional and international repercussions, the extent of which no one can predict. or find itself compelled to confront Israeli schemes in Lebanon. In this case the U.S. secretary of state must risk some of the domestic considerations connected to his position and political future. He also has to understand the reality of the violent trends which are in conflict in the area, the course of which cannot be determined or controlled by the United States alone. Thus, here begins the mission of the U.S. secretary of state in becoming acquainted with the different viewpoints and here too Haig's visit might provide the groundwork for a new kind of action unless he is overcome by events in the area on fire.

KING HUSAYN RECEIVES IRAQI FOREIGN MINISTER

JN041245 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 4 Apr 81

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received Iraqi Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi at Al-Hummar Palace at noon today. The Iraqi minister delivered a message to his majesty from His Excellency President Saddam Husayn on the military situation at the war front, the political efforts which are being exerted by the Islamic good offices committee and the relations of brotherhood and joint cooperation between the two countries. The meeting was attended by the prime minister, the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, the court minister, the information minister, the foreign minister and the Iraqi ambassador in Amman.

MATERIALS ON REACTIONS TO ZAHLAH FIGHTING

Sarkis' Call to al-Asad

NC061202 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 6 Apr 81

[Text] At noon today President Ilyas Sarkis telephoned Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. During the conversation and at the request of President Sarkis, it was agreed that Syrian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam should come to Lebanon to closely follow the situation, meet with the officials and participate directly in dealing with the current situation. Khaddam is expected to arrive in Beirut tomorrow morning.

3 Apr Cabinet Meeting

NC032052 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 3 Apr 81

[Text] The Cabinet concluded its meeting at 2100. Afterward, Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan read the following statement: The Cabinet held an extraordinary meeting today to discuss the deteriorating security situation, especially in Beirut and Zahlah. Before the meeting, His Excellency President Ilyas Sarkis and His Excellency Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad had a telephone conversation during which it was agreed Minister of Public Works and Transport Ilyas al-Hirawi would go to Damascus to meet with His Excellency President al-Asad to review the security situation in Zahlah.

The Cabinet met twice, once in the morning and later in the afternoon. During these meetings, which were characterized by their frankness and positive spirit, the Cabinet heard the various views raised regarding the means to stop the security situation from deteriorating, to arrive at a cease-fire and to deal with the crisis in depth and in all its aspects.

The Cabinet also listened to Minister al-Hirawi following his return from Damascus. Minister al-Hirawi reviewed the outcome of his meeting with His Excellency President al-Asad in the presence of Syrian Deputy Prime Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam.

The Cabinet affirmed its extreme intention to deal with matters in a responsible way compatible with the delicate and fateful stage through which the homeland is passing and with a sincere will to face the situation united.

The Cabinet decided to remain in constant session to follow up on the security developments and work to stabilize the cease-fire in all areas.

Minister's Return From Syria

NC031628 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 3 Apr 81

[Excerpt] At 1630 today Minister Ilyas al-Hirawi arrived at the Republican palace following a trip to Damascus. The minister earlier went to the Syrian capital to meet with President al-Asad in the wake of this morning's extraordinary Cabinet session. The return of the Lebanese Government's representative has been coupled with a violent increase in military action against the city of Zahlah and its residential quarters. Syrian positions in Turbul, (Ablah), (Buwayrij) and Shtawrah have intensified their shelling.

In an arrival statement, Minister al-Hirawi told newsmen: I cannot say anything. I must meet with the president immediately. He then proceeded to the Cabinet meeting, which resumed at 1745 [as heard]. The artillery shelling of this city in Al-Biqa' region this afternoon intensified in a way never before seen by the city. Bombs are falling indiscriminately everywhere and the residents are living in terror and fear. When a house is hit, it is then shelled until it is completely brought down. Alarmed appeals are demanding that this genocidal war be halted. Minister al-Hirawi's own house was burned out while he was in Damascus.

Skaf Statement

NC061317 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 6 Apr 81

[Text] This morning President Ilyas Sarkis met with Minister of National Defense Joseph Skaf, who made the following statement after the meeting: We appeal to world conscience to act quickly to put an end to the indiscriminate shelling against human beings in Lebanon. The situation in Zahlah, which has a population of 200,000 people, has reached a dangerous level and the inhabitants are facing difficult living conditions.

In view of this, the world is called upon to act to put an end to what is taking place and to actively participate in finding quick and drastic solutions to save Zahlah, its sons and children and ultimately save Lebanon from the dangers to its entity, continuity and unity.

Minister Skaf added: I am afraid that our tragic events will spill over onto the Arab world, to whose conscience and role we appeal to save Lebanon. We also urge the Arab world to break its silence, for Lebanon is saddened by its brothers' silence over what is taking place. Zahlah, which has opened its heart to the Arabs, refuses to accept that they remain onlookers while its sons are being martyred and its landmarks destroyed in a manner unprecedented in the history of mankind.

Skaf Resignation Threat

JN041052 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1045 GMT 4 Apr 81

[Text] Beirut, 4 Apr (INA)--Lebanese Defense Minister Joseph Skaf has threatened to resign in protest against the deteriorating situation in Zhalah. He described as unbearable the situation in the town, which has been the scene of heightened tension for the past 3 days. Skaf told the INA correspondent here that he will tender his resignation to President Ilyas Sarkis. We did not, however, disclose the date of his resignation.

Al-Jumayyil Appeal

NC052024 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 5 Apr 81

[Cable sent to UN Secretary General Dr Kurt Waldheim by Commander of the Lebanese forces Shaykh Bashir al-Jumayyil--date not given]

[Text] Mr Kurt Waldheim, the secretary general of the United Nations:

The forces of the Lebanese resistance, as one of the parties concerned in UN Security Council Resolution No 436, issued on 6 November 1978, are honored to inform you of the following:

1. The Syrian regular army, in cooperation with the armed elements of the PLO, launched a comprehensive attack at 1100 on 2 April 1981 on the Lebanese city of Zahlah, in which more than 200,000 people reside. This city is now being subjected to a savage shelling by guns of all caliber aimed at all the streets and causing heavy human losses among civilians. The Syrians forces and their allies are advancing on four axes, with a view to occupying the city and carrying out a massacre among the residents.

Parallel to this campaign, the aggressor forces are shelling the areas of eastern Beirut and its suburbs as well as the area around the presidential palace, causing a large number of casualties and great destruction.

Although these forces, in accordance with the Riyadh and Cairo agreements of October 1976, were placed under the direct and personal command of the Lebanese president, they are refusing to abide by his successive orders to cease fire. The first cease-fire order was issued at 1220 local time on 2 April 1981, and it was disseminated by all official information media.

2. Furthermore, all the positions of the Lebanese regular army along the contact lines have been subjected to fierce shelling for the past 48 hours.

3. While I am addressing this appeal to you, more than 200,000 Lebanese are being subjected to barbaric and savage attacks launched by a hostile army that is pouring its hatred out against innocent civilians.

4. In view of Resolution 436 issued by the UN Security Council in its session No 2089--a resolution that the forces of the Lebanese resistance have implemented and are still upholding and that in its first article calls on all parties concerned to carefully respect the cease-fire and put an end to the acts of violence--considering that the Syrian and Palestinian forces in Lebanon have violated Lebanon's national sovereignty and its geographic integrity and launched a comprehensive attack at 1100 local time on 2 April 1981 against Zahlah and the quarters of the eastern sector of Beirut; considering that these attacks are directed against the civilian population, who are being subjected to shooting and shelling; considering that these attacks are a prelude to a premeditated massacre of the people of Zahlah; considering that all these actions which are contrary to all social values constitute a flagrant violation of Security Council Resolution 436; considering Article 99 of the United Nations and Paragraph 3 of Resolution 436, which empowers the UN secretary general to supervise the implementation of the cease-fire and to keep the Security Council informed about this implementation; considering that the Syrian forces and the forces allied to them are refusing to implement the successive cease-fire orders issued by the Lebanese president; considering the appeal made by the UN secretary general on 2 April 1981 to end the fighting in Beirut and Zahlah, the forces of the Lebanese resistance request the following from the UN secretary general:

1. To take note of the cease-fire violations that are being committed by the Syrian forces in Beirut and Zahlah.
2. To try to compel the Syrian forces to respect the cease-fire as stipulated in Resolution 436 issued on 6 October 1978.
3. To give the order to the Syrian forces command to permit International Red Cross units to enter the confrontation area to evacuate the casualties and provide medical help, in implementation of Paragraph 2 of Resolution 436 issued on 6 October 1978.
4. To ask the Syrian authorities to withdraw their military forces.
5. To reactivate the mission entrusted to the secretary general in Paragraph 3 of Resolution 436 issued on 6 October 1978.
6. To send UN observers to carry out an investigation with the attacked civilians and to verify the implementation of Resolution 436 throughout Lebanon and urgently in Zahlah.
7. To try to merge Resolutions 425 and 436 issued by the UN Security Council, because they contradict each other in their legal basis, in order to expand the area of the UN forces deployment to all Lebanese territory.
8. To distribute this request to all the delegations of the UN Security Council member states as a working paper.

With my thanks and respects.

[Signed] Bashir al-Jumayyil, chairman of the Command Council of the Lebanese forces and commander in chief of the Lebanese Armed Forces.

Al-Khatib Explanation

NC051605 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 5 Apr 81

[Text] Arab Deterrent Forces Commander Brig Gen Sami al-Khatib this afternoon said that there are encouraging signs indicating that the efforts to clam the overall security situation in Zahlah have been successful, particularly now that the cease-fire has been consolidated as a first step. Work is now underway to open the road between (Al-Karak) and Hawsh al-Umara.

There is also a trend toward handing over to the internal security forces the task of maintaining security until the arrangements agreed upon during Minister of Public Works Ilyas al-Hirawi's visit to Damascus are completed. These arrangements still need some clarifications.

As for the situation in Beirut, Brigadier General al-Khatib said that efforts are still underway with the military and nonmilitary commands to find a way to supervize the cease-fire, and consequently to consolidate it once and for all. Tripartite committees comprising the ADF, the Lebanese Army and the liaison will be formed and will be assigned to all the contact lines to closely monitor the cease-fire, particularly since it has become evident that there are parties seeking to destroy it.

Answering a question on the car he is now using, which belongs to the Lebanese Army, Brigadier General al-Khatib said that his ADF car was hit and damaged during yesterday's clashes. This forced him today to use his other car, which belongs to the army, in his capacity as a Lebanese Army officer. He said there is no justification for all the interpretations being made regarding this subject. He urged all the information media services to carefully check their reports before disseminating them, more so in view of the present delicate circumstances.

4 Apr Haddad Address

NC041127 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in English 1009 GMT 4 Apr 81

[4 April address by 'free Lebanon' Commander Major Haddad at Voice of Hope studios--live]

[Excerpts] Dear listeners, good morning to you. I want to speak, but really I do not know what to say because my spirit is very sad and my heart is bleeding. Why? [word indistinct] and knowing what is going on against the people of Zahlah. Zahlah used to be a part, a dear part, of the heart of Lebanon. Zahlah, the nicest city in Lebanon; Zahlah, the folkloric city of Lebanon; Zahlah is the carrier of the traditional customs of Lebanon and the history of Lebanon began with Zahlah. Now, Zahlah is burning; Zahlah is dying; Zahlah is vanishing and nobody is going to rescue the poor innocent people of Zahlah against the savage attacks of the Syrians.

Gentlemen, it is a shame that we say that we are living in a civilized century, the 20th century, and that massacre can continue without any intervention from the civilized world, from the free countries and from the Christian countries. I do not know why the world is keeping silent against what is going on in Zahlah.

Gentlemen, in the past, when Ad-Damur was invaded by the Syrians, the remnants of the people, of Ad-Damur threw themselves in the sea. Afterwards, [words indistinct] and rescued them. But for Zahlah there is no issue; all the town is surrounded from all the parts; no issue for the civilians to escape.

Now, I have information that many hundreds were killed in the houses, under the ruins, in the streets; even they destroyed the hospital of (Talshihah); destroying the churches without any mercy and nobody objecting or trying to do something. We know, an ambulance coming to help with serum and other. [as heard] Inside the ambulance there were two nurses and one nun. This ambulance was burned with the passengers by the Syrians, but nobody saying nothing. It will be worse than what happened in Biafra.

Gentlemen, there is no more conscience in the world; there is no more mercy in the hearts of the people. A real massacre, a real tragedy are going on in Zahlah and nobody is trying to help; 200,000 Christians going to be exterminated completely and nobody, nobody objecting. Why? It is unfair; only because they are Christians, it is written for the Christians to be exterminated. Mr Kurt Waldheim showed his worry by asking for a cease-fire. Nobody listened to him.

I sent for him a message last night, I asked him to act and to arrange for an urgent meeting of the Security Council to stop this massacre but I did not get an answer unfortunately for him. Why? Because they are not terrorists, the people of Zahlah; why to care about them, they are not terrorists and they are Christians so they have to vanish. I wonder, I am still hearing from some countries saying that we are supporting President Sarkis; President Sarkis seeing this massacre happening to his own sons and is saying nothing against it. How come?

Gentlemen, a real massacre is going against the Christians in Zahlah and it will follow also in the eastern part of Beirut. If the world is not intervening to save Zahlah, it will not intervene afterwards to save the eastern part of Beirut. That means that there is an international [word indistinct] against all the Christians of Lebanon. I call upon the conscience of all the world and of all the free countries to urge for an urgent meeting of the Security Council and to do the utmost possible, at least to assure an issue to evacuate the population, the poor and innocent civilians, who have nothing to do with the war only (?looking) to live, they were attacked in their houses; they were (?looking) to live in their houses and to take care of their lands.

Gentlemen, you want to give Lebanon to Syria; give it to Syria but at least assure evacuation of the people. It is not fair that that massacre can continue. You have to find a way. At least send UN soldiers to assure an issue or an escape for the people; assure a cease-fire to let the Red Cross enter and take care of the wounded and let the Red Cross evacuate the population. From our side, we are doing our possible [as heard] to help and I am going to continue shelling Sidon until the shelling of Zahlah will stop, until the military activity against Zahlah will stop. I have no other choice. I hope [words indistinct] from all the people and all the personalities who have influence upon the Syrians to put pressure against the Syrians and let them stop their savage attacks and savage actions against the poor people of Zahlah.

You, UN soldiers, most of you are Christian: how come you accept such massacres can continue against the Christians of Zahlah and the eastern part of Beirut and you are here circulating inside our area directing your weapons against us also. Why? Are you real Christians or not? If you are interested in Lebanon, you have to do the impossible to protect the Christians from the aggressor Syrians and terrorists. If your governments will not listen to you and you are really Christians I propose to you to disobey the order and join our forces and both we are ready to go together and save the people of Zahlah, the Christians of Zahlah. I hope everyone of you will do something about this problem. Thank you very much.

AL-ASAD RECEIVES LEBANESE PUBLIC WORKS MINISTER

JN031658 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 3 Apr 81

[Text] At 1330 today President Hafiz al-Asad received Ilyas al-Hirawi, Lebanese public works and transport minister. The meeting was attended by 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Syrian deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs.

At the instructions of Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis, Al-Hirawi explained the security situation in Lebanon, particularly in Zahlah, to President Hafiz al-Asad. Talks centered on the explosive security situations in Lebanon and means to deal with them.

In this respect, President al-Asad stressed Syria's firm stand and its concern for Lebanon's security, unity and Arab affiliation and for the security of every citizen there. He stressed that Syria will do its best to establish security in the fraternal country.

Ilyas al-Hirawi referred to the national and family ties which link Lebanon in general and Zahlah in particular with Syria. He explained the feelings of the Zahlah citizens toward Syria and expressed their appreciation for Syria's efforts to provide security and peace and to safeguard this security and peace for the Lebanese people, particularly for the sons of Zahlah.

Upon reviewing the security situation in Lebanon, it was decided to adopt some measures to help establish and consolidate security in the fraternal country.

AL-QADHDHAFI, AL-ASAD DISCUSS LEBANON SITUATION

JN051939 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 5 Apr 81

[Text] Damascus--Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi telephoned President Hafiz al-Asad at 2045 today. The conversation revolved around the general Arab situation and the plot taking place in Lebanon against Lebanon's unity, security and independence.

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi emphasized Libya's stand by the side of the Lebanese people and their nationalist forces as well as the Palestinian resistance in Lebanon. He also stressed his support for Syria's efforts, which are aimed at preserving Lebanon's unity and security and at thwarting the plot, which was planned by the Camp David partners. He also stressed that what is taking place in the region and Lebanon is aimed against the Arab nation's steadfastness and threatens its future.

President Hafiz al-Asad, in turn, stressed the Syrian peoples determination to continue along the same line they have drawn up for themselves in preserving the Arab nation's steadfastness and defending their rights and dignity. He also stressed Syria's desire to maintain Lebanon's security, stability and safety.

PAPERS VIEW CRISIS IN LEBANON, U.S. MIDEAST PLANS

JN030935 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 3 Apr 81

[The press review]

[Excerpts] In a commentary in the "Behind the News" column, under the headline "Lebanon's Role and Fate," the paper TISHRIN says: The destruction of the security situation in Beirut and Zahlah by the Phalangist militias was neither sudden nor spontaneous. Rather, preparations for such an explosion had been under way for some time. In fact, the Lebanese papers and prominent figures spoke of such an expected explosion some days ago.

It is obvious that this explosion was planned, since nothing in the Lebanese arena justified such an explosion and there were certainly no national Lebanese motives for increasing internal tension. On the contrary, there were positive realities which behooved every Lebanese who was concerned for Lebanon and its unity, legitimacy, sovereignty, security and peace to contribute to calming the situation, entrenching security and spreading calm, using all possible efforts and available potentials, since this would be in the interest of a unified and independent Lebanon.

In the Lebanese arena there were efforts such as those exerted to achieve national detente, without which Lebanon cannot emerge from its crisis; the results of the summit between Ilyas Sarkis and Hafiz al-Asad and the necessary steps for the implementation of the decisions reached by this summit; the government's decision to deploy the army in the south, representing sovereignty, spreading legitimate authority and affirming Lebanon's unity; the stands adopted by UNIFIL Commander General Callaghan which support Lebanese legitimacy and arouse Israel's apprehension and anger; and the stability which prevailed to a large extent in the various regions.

TISHRIN asks: Since all these realities prevailed in the Lebanese arena, why did the Phalangist militias cause an explosion in the security situation to such a grave extent? Was it in the interest of an independent Lebanon, a Lebanon whose people and territory are unified? Was it in the interest of peace, security and coexistence of the Lebanese citizens? Was it in the interest of Lebanese legitimacy? Or was it in the interest of indispensable relations with Syria and the ADF?

In reply to these questions the paper says: It is certain that the explosion in the situation was for none of these reasons. Lebanon did not need such an explosion since its previously inflicted wounds were enough. It was Israel which needed such an explosion, since it neither wants Lebanon to recuperate, to regain sovereignty over all its territories nor to be capable of putting a stop to the actions of Sa'd Haddad--the Zionist agent and Israel's Trojan horse in southern Lebanon. Those who were also in need of such an explosion were the enemies of Syria and the Arab nation, who range from the United States and King Husayn to Saddam Husayn and all those who want to keep Lebanon a bleeding wound in the body of the Arab homeland, a tool for applying pressure on Syria, a snare for the Syrian Armed Forces and a factor of extortion in U.S. and Israeli hands.

It was with the explosion in the situation caused by the Phalangist militias that cohesion and coordination were manifested between Israel, the United States and their agents on the one side, and the Phalangist militias, who are gambling over Lebanon's fate, security, safety and unity.

Such an explosion must be contained and extinguished using all necessary and sound methods. This is both a national Lebanese and pan-Arab duty. The paper concludes: Inasmuch as Syria is eager to help Lebanon recuperate, bolster unity, entrench legitimacy, maintain and strengthen security and prepare the atmosphere for detente, it is also determined to adhere to the decision to prevent Lebanon from becoming a tool to be manipulated by the enemies of Syria and the Arab nation. Syria is serious in this, since its own security and that of the Arab nation necessitate keeping Lebanon unified, independent and Arab in its heart, words, acts and stands.

Commenting on Haig's tour and Washington's extensive military program, ATH-THAWRAH's "Under the Spotlight" column says: It is noticed that Haig's visit to the Arab region comes at a time when Washington has declared its intention to dispatch military forces to the Sinai Peninsula. As the Washington POST recently stated, these forces number at least 1,000 U.S. soldiers. This action would be under the guise of U.S. participation in the so-called multinational force for the purpose of maintaining the separate treaty between the Zionist entity and the traitorous As-Sadat regime. Some facts show that, within the framework of Washington's military plans, the U.S. Pentagon is spinning webs in the Arab region which are compactly interwoven and form a large network of U.S. military bases, which will be used for subjugating the region and attacking its people.

So far the United States has concentrated a naval fleet in the region which is made up of 35 warships, including strike carriers and sophisticated espionage planes. It has also expanded and modernized one of its largest bases, on the island of Diego Garcia, and is using military bases in Oman, Somalia and Egypt for purposes of rapid, aggressive deployment.

ATH-THAWRAH concludes: It seems that Washington is determined to link its intensive military plans with the ground forces in Sinai in order to maintain its imperialist ambitions in the Arab region on the one hand and in practice to replace the Zionist occupation forces on the other hand.

HAIG TOUR LINKED TO U.S. 'POLICY OF INTRANSIGENCE'

JN060854 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 6 Apr 81

[From the press review]

[Excerpts] Under the headline "Haig and the So-Called Dangers" TISHRIN comments on the arrival in the area of Gen Alexander Haig, U.S. State Department secretary and former NATO commander. Haig will visit the Egyptian regime, the Zionist entity, the Jordanian regime and Saudi Arabia.

The paper explains that Haig comes to the area as an envoy of the U.S. policy of intransigence and that of the big stick. His mission also comes within the framework of the change in U.S. policy which has led it to accept detente, then reject it, has led it from peaceful coexistence to the brink of war, from arranging the situation in light of the new realities in the world to an attempt at making the wheels of history and progress go backwards. Those who doubt the success of the U.S. policy of intransigence are not only those who are hostile to imperialism but also the U.S. allies in West Europe and some realistic politicians. The threats carried to the area by Haig are not new to it. The area has been subjected to them by Eden, Begin and many others. The area was not frightened by these people. It taught them lessons that are recorded in the annals of history. The present U.S. leaders will find it useful to review these lessons to realize that inevitable failure is waiting for them, their threats and their military concentrations and bases of aggression.

Haig wants to compel the area, particularly the Arab countries, to believe that it is exposed to a Soviet threat which dictates that it accept cooperation with Israel under the U.S. canopy. He wants it to believe too that Israeli expansion and the occupation of Arab territories do not constitute any threat to the area.

Haig has come to the area to market his rotten and unsalable goods, which were tried and rejected by the area in the past after it had discovered that they were useless and corrupt. Haig is not a real advocate of peace. He is a warmonger who calls for the liquidation of the Palestinian cause and for the establishment of an alliance that will include the Arabs and Israel. How can Haig be a real advocate of peace when the U.S. administration, with its policy of complete bias toward Israel and hostility toward the Arab nation's interests, has blocked all the paths that lead to a just, comprehensive and real peace in harmony with the UN Charter's principles?

The U.S. administration proclaimed the Middle East and the Gulf to be a U.S. state when it claimed that they are part of U.S. national security and when it removed the Palestinian cause from its list of priorities. The Arab masses, however, which have foiled alliances and removed occupation from their territories, will struggle to keep the Arab homeland an Arab area and to ensure that no flag other than the Arab flag will be hoisted over it.

MEDIA REPORT HAIG'S VISIT, RELATED DEVELOPMENTS

Shamir Airport Remarks

TA051332 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1245 GMT 5 Apr 81

[Remarks by Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir at Ben-Gurion Airport upon U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig's arrival for a visit to Israel--live in English with superimposed Hebrew translation]

[Text] Mr Secretary and Mrs Haig, friends: It is a pleasure to welcome you on your first visit to Israel as secretary of state. We are convinced that your important mission will strengthen the forces of peace in our region. The bonds between our two peoples are not only bonds of mutual interests, of a common strategic outlook [words indistinct] on a deep commitment to share values of freedom, democracy and social justice. Our common devotion to these ideals provides the most solid guarantee that our partnership in the quest for peace and security for this region will continue and bear fruit. All of us in Israel wish President Reagan and other Americans who were wounded with him a speedy recovery and a long, healthy life. We wish you and your colleagues a very pleasant [words indistinct].

Meeting With Begin

TA051721 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 5 Apr 81

[Text] The first meeting between the prime minister and the U.S. secretary of state ended an hour ago in Jerusalem. After the meeting, Alexander Haig told reporters that he is watching events in Poland. Menaham Begin said that among other issues he discussed Lebanon with his guest.

Further Report

TA051813 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 5 Apr 81

[Text] Officials in Alexander Haig's entourage have reported that after the election in Israel, four regional leaders will be invited to Washington. They are the prime minister of the government that will be set in Jerusalem, the Egyptian president, King Husayn and Saudi Prince Fahd.

The officials said Haig is trying to convince Israel that the mission of fending off the Soviets in the Middle East is more important than Israel's concern over Saudi Arabia's arming. They added that Washington has been trying to persuade Syria, through various international elements, to cease attacking the Christians.

Prime Minister Menahem Begin said after his first talk with the secretary of state that Alexander Haig is a friend of Israel who has proved this in deeds, not merely in words.

Haig said he had come to study the situation first-hand. The conversation was frank and the first goal of the trip had been achieved.

Remarks to Reporters

TA052007 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 5 Apr 81

[Text] The U.S. secretary of state repeated today to the prime minister and the Cabinet ministers that the United States sees itself committed to the peace process and the Camp David accords. He was speaking during the first meeting he held with the prime minister this afternoon in Jerusalem.

Mr Haig emphasized that the efforts to set up the multinational Sinai supervision force are continuing and expressed the hope that he would soon be able to report that the force had been established and that setbacks that had cropped up in the course of the efforts to establish it have been overcome.

Our political correspondent noted that the differences between the U.S. State Department and the Israeli Government on the supply of arms to Saudi Arabia remain. Alexander Haig arrived in Israel this afternoon for a 24-hour visit. Here is a report by correspondents Elimelekh Ram and Nisim Misha'ahl:

[Ram] The secretary of state's first meeting with the prime minister and the ministerial autonomy team was held today. For about 1 hour Menahem Begin discussed before Alexander Haig and members of his delegation the issues of peace with Egypt, the question of the multinational force, the strategic situation in the Middle East and the regional arms race. It was a meeting of reviews and exchanges of assessments.

The Lebanese issue stood out prominently. There was mutual agreement on the urgent need to bring about a stable cease-fire and to put an end to the liquidation of civilians. Haig reported on U.S. activity--through direct and indirect channels--to effect a cease-fire, efforts which so far have not been successful.

As for the autonomy talks, Interior Minister Yosef Burg emphasized that despite Israel's desire to continue the negotiations, the Egyptians have avoided resuming them. The secretary of state noted that since the administration is new, it must review the obstacles delaying the continuation of the talks. At the same time, he noted, the negotiations must continue in accordance with the Camp David agreements, without any deviations from them.

The commitment to Israel's security is part of the policy of President Reagan's administration, the secretary of state said. Mr Haig expressed the hope that the obstacles on the way to establishing the Sinai multinational force would be removed soon.

The secretary of state voiced understanding of the Israeli fears of the arms deal with Saudi Arabia but said the U.S. considerations were part of the strategic view of the entire region to prevent further Soviet penetration into the area.

After a brief private meeting, the prime minister and his guest met reporters at the entrance to the prime minister's office:

[Begin videotape] [Begin--in English] I wish to express our gratitude to the secretary for his visit and also for the sincere discussion we held tonight between the two delegations. We will continue tomorrow. So again, welcome, Mr Secretary, our dear friend, to Israel [word indistinct].

[Haig--in English] Thank you very much, Mr Prime Minister, Foreign Minister Shamir. We have just concluded, I think, unusually helpful, frank and--in the traditional Israeli-American way--most cordial and constructive discussions on the issues that the prime minister just mentioned [as heard]. I want to emphasize that I am here along with my party to learn, to fact find, to get a first-hand understanding of the concerns of your leadership, of the differences between the parties in the peace process and of the current dangers facing this region and facing Israel. I am, of course, especially concerned about the increased level of Soviet risk-taking, not only directly, as we've seen in Africa, in the Western hemisphere, Southeast Asia and here in the Middle East itself. [end videotape]

Later Report

TA060528 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 6 Apr 81

[Text] The U.S. secretary of state said it is possible that it was the Soviet Union that pushed the Syrians into attacking the Lebanese Christians so as to create a region of tension, thus facilitating Soviet action in Poland. Secretary Haig made this assessment in a talk with the prime minister and several other ministers. This was learned by our political correspondent, Shim'on Schiffer.

It has been learned in the talks that the Americans have resolved to supply to the Saudis the arms they want, despite Israel's opposition, according to Washington's policy of strengthening allies. The ministers got the impression that Secretary Haig views all Middle East problems from the viewpoint of curbing Soviet penetration.

Officials of Secretary Haig's entourage reported that following the elections in Israel four regional leaders will be invited to Washington: the prime minister of the new Israeli Government, the Egyptian president, King Husayn and Saudi Prince Fahd.

This morning Haig will meet with Knesset members Peres and Eban and later with the president of Israel. Before noon he will again confer with the prime minister and foreign minister and hear a report by defense establishment leaders and IDF generals on the military deployment and quantities of arms in the regional Arab countries. At noon Alexander Haig will leave for Jordan.

Kollek Statement

TA060658 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0605 GMT 6 Apr 81

[Text] Alexander Haig does not yet have a consolidated view regarding Jerusalem. This is the impression of Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek from his meeting with the U.S. secretary of state yesterday. Our correspondent, Yaron Wilensky, talked with Kollek this morning:

[Begin recording] [Kollek] I think he does not have a clear position yet. His questions were aimed at making the situation clear to him. He wanted to know what place Jerusalem should be given in the negotiations--whether negotiations on the Jerusalem issue should be left for the last stage or not. He generally wanted to learn many facts. I tried to explain to him the achievements made all these past years and that, in my opinion, Jerusalem does not constitute an obstacle in the peace negotiations. [end recording]

Dinner Remarks

TA052109 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 5 Apr 81

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig said this evening that the Americans admire the State of Israel for being faithful to justice, liberty and equality despite the hostility surrounding it. We admire this policy, the U.S. secretary of state said during a dinner given in his honor by Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. Haig said Israel is an ally of the United States and friendship with Israel is an U.S. interest. A strong Israel, he added, would contribute to the U.S. effort to withstand the Soviet threat; we must fight Soviet imperialism together and thus let us strengthen ourselves together.

Meeting With Peres

TA060713 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0658 GMT 6 Apr 81

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Haig met with MK Peres and MK Eban this morning. Secretary Haig told the two there is no room for the PLO's incorporation into the negotiations and that the United States is opposed to the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. Our correspondent in the Knesset, Moshe Hakohen, heard further details about the meeting from MK Peres:

[Begin recording] [Peres] We said the autonomy negotiations should be continued and the achievement of an agreement is possible. We said it is possible to apply the autonomy in those places it can be applied after prior agreement [by all parties concerned]. At a later stage and in accordance with the Camp David accords, other neighbors should be invited to the negotiations.

[Hakohen] Did you talk about the inclusion of another Arab country, Jordan, into the circle of negotiations?

[Peres] As far as we are concerned, yes, but in the course of time, not immediately. Jordan is also assigned a role according to the Camp David agreements.

[Hakohen] Have you reached some agreement on Jordan's possible inclusion in the future?

[Peres] We did not conduct negotiations. I can only say that I believe that our remarks were received with understanding. [end recording]

Agreement on Issues

TA060719 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 6 Apr 81

[Text] After his talk with U.S. Secretary of State Haig, Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres said he found that he agrees with him on most issues raised in the meeting, including rejection of negotiations with the PLO, rejection of a Palestinian state, and the search for ways of regional deployment and of finding a solution to the Middle East conflict. Commenting to our political correspondent, Shim'on Schiffer, Peres said he warned Haig that the United States avoid making the mistake made at the time by British Prime Minister Anthony Eden when he established the Arab League that was supposed to aid Britain in the region but that finally turned into an organization that fought against Israel and endangered the entire Middle East.

Meeting With Navon

TA060813 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 6 Apr 81

[Text] The U.S. secretary of state is going to meet with the Israeli foreign minister in the latter's office in Jerusalem now. Our correspondent, Dan Eshel, reports that about an hour ago Alexander Haig met with President Yitzhaq Navon.

In answer to a correspondent's question Haig said the possibility cannot be excluded that developments in Lebanon are intended to divert attention from developments in Poland. It is also possible that the situation in Lebanon has been affected by Haig's presence in the region. On his talk with President Navon the U.S. secretary of state said that the Israeli president proved sensitive to the situation in the West, in Asia and in our region and the talk was characterized as wide-ranging, as Haig put it. Asked whether there is any new development in Poland, Haig said that the United States is concerned about the alert measures adopted by the Soviet Army.

Foreign Ministry Leaders

TA060906 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0858 GMT 6 Apr 81

[Text] The meeting of Alexander Haig with the Israeli Foreign Ministry leaders in Jerusalem ended a short while ago. Our correspondent, Gad Becker, has just told us that both parties expressed the opinion that a solution must be found for the problems arising in Lebanon. The issue of the arms supply to Saudi Arabia and the U.S. strategic concept featured prominently in the meeting. The Israeli side complained that the arms supplied to Saudi Arabia may cause radicalization in its positions. The U.S. secretary of state explained that Saudi Arabia is an important part of the region and has fears and problems that need to be taken into account. Haig explained that Saudi Arabia is part of the Western deployment against Soviet expansionism.

Haig Assessment

TA060940 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0927 GMT 6 Apr 81

[Text] Alexander Haig has hinted in the capital today that in his assessment Saudi Arabia may, under certain circumstances, change its attitude toward Israel. The U.S. secretary of state told his colleagues in the Israeli Foreign Ministry: Do not exclude the possibility that due to certain situations, internal or external dangers, the position of certain countries can change. Thus, Haig replied to the Israeli argument that in supplying arms to Saudi Arabia the United States is strengthening and aiding a country hostile to Israel. Alexander Haig reminded his Israeli colleagues of what happened in Mecca and noted that 3 years ago it was difficult to foresee that a peace agreement between Egypt and Israel would be achieved. Political correspondent Gad Becker, who reports these details, adds that the opinion prevailing in Jerusalem today is that it is impossible to prevent the sale of AWACS planes to Saudi Arabia.

Haig, Begin News Conference

TA061116 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 6 Apr 81

[Text] About an hour ago, at a news conference held jointly with U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig, Prime Minister Menahem Begin said that in the course of their conversations they have reached an understanding on serious issues, an understanding that will bear fruit in the future. This will be manifest in close cooperation between the two countries, Mr Begin said: Together we will stand and face the struggles for humanity.

Haig said that his talks enabled him to study the peace issue as well as subjects pertaining to expanding the strategic cooperation to curb the Soviet threats and also issues having to do with international terrorism.

Before that, the meeting between the U.S. secretary of state and the prime minister, the ministerial team and the IDF generals ended in the prime minister's office. Our political correspondent, Shim'on Schiffer, reported that the defense establishment heads presented Haig with data on the increasing arming of the Arab countries with various weapons and also talked about the Soviet penetration into the region. Against this background, the defense establishment chiefs presented Israel's security needs.

Our political correspondent has learned that several agreements dealing with increased economic aid from the United States in the near future were concluded in that meeting. He noted that this is probably the only practical resolution reached during Haig's talks in Israel. Haig is due to leave Israel for Jordan and Saudi Arabia.

'Understanding' Reached

TA061132 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1120 GMT 6 Apr 81

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Haig's talks in Israel have ended. Our political correspondent, Gad Becker, reported that in an impromptu news conference held a few minutes ago at the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem the prime minister and Secretary Haig said that understanding was reached on important issues.

Regarding the sale of AWACS planes to Saudi Arabia, the prime minister repeated Israel's opposition to the deal. However, both the prime minister and Secretary Haig were extremely reserved about using the term compensation to Israel in this context. Haig said: We will return to Washington equipped with what we have learned on this subject. We will not hold a public discussion on this matter before the end of the trip.

Asked about the settlements, Haig said that the present U.S. policy does not deal with public criticism of friends. Disputed issues will be discussed and handled in diplomatic ways, the guest said.

On the situation in Lebanon, Haig said that the United States is taking various measures to restore quiet there. Haig condemned Syria's conduct.

'Practical Conclusions' Cited

TA061223 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 6 Apr 81

[Text] This morning the prime minister and the defense establishment leaders presented to U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig Israel's security needs. Our correspondent, Shim'on Schiffer, has learned that practical conclusions were reached regarding increasing economic aid in the coming period. Thus Haig's talks in Israel have ended and he is leaving Israel for Jordan and Saudi Arabia.

At noon, Haig convened a news conference together with Prime Minister Begin. The prime minister announced that in the 2 days of talks with the guest understanding was reached on important issues. This will yield fruits and be expressed in terms of tight cooperation between the two countries. Haig noted that in his talks here he was able to get first-hand information about the peace issue and issues connected with extending the strategic cooperation against Soviet penetration as well as issues pertaining to international terrorism. In the talks, the Israeli representatives repeated the objection to the sophisticated arms sale to Saudi Arabia. In answer to a question Haig said that there is not room for talk about compensation to Israel for the supply of aircraft to Saudi Arabia, but emphasized that Washington adheres to its commitment to maintain Israel's qualitative advantage.

On the matter of Lebanon, he said that the Syrian Army's operations there are cruel, noting that over the last 2 days Washington has taken firm action, via countries connected with Syria, to put an end to the fights. Haig disclosed that the UN secretary general sent a special envoy to Damascus. The envoy will arrive in Damascus tomorrow to try to achieve a cease-fire in Lebanon.

Sharon's Observation

TA061206 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1156 GMT 6 Apr 81

[Text] Additional details on Alexander Haig's talks in Jerusalem today are transmitted by our political correspondent, Gad Becker, who reports that in the course of the discussion with Israel's ministerial team, Agriculture Minister Sharon observed that Israel does not see itself as a strategic asset of another country.

What we are doing is fighting our own war of security, a war that others are not fighting for us, according to Sharon. Haig interrupted Minister Sharon, telling him that the U.S. people should hear more of such remarks.

Discussing the economic issues connected with security, Haig said that the United States will make efforts to meet Israel half way regarding easing the economic burden resulting from the security needs.

Arab 'Indifference'

TA061146 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 6 Apr 81 p 3

[By Yosef Tzuri'el]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig's visit is not arousing interest among Arab personalities in the occupied territories. Of all three east Jerusalem newspapers, only one devoted a mild lead article to him.

Arab mayors and public figures believe that the current U.S. administration at least for the moment has not shown special interest in the Palestinian problem. This Arab indifference has been manifest in the small number of talks they held with U.S. representatives in the region.

On the other hand, the European Common Market countries have been growing increasingly interested in the occupied territories. The report last week that the inhabitants of the territories are expected to be aided financially by these countries has aroused special interest.

Arab sources have also reported that even if this aid is symbolic, it is enough to enhance West European countries' involvement in the affairs of the occupied territories and thus perhaps force the United States to give thought to the future of the area.

In the past, visits by U.S. secretaries of state aroused interst among Arab personalities and the east Jerusalem Arabic-language press. Last night, no interest in the visit could be observed.

Post Notes 'Omissions'

TA060954 Jerusalem POST in English 6 Apr 81 pp 1, 2

[By David Landau and Robert Rosenberg]

[Excerpt] On the situation in Lebanon, Haig spoke of his own ongoing efforts, both direct and indirect, to bring about a stable cease-fire. Begin for his part said that the indiscriminate Syrian shelling of Christian areas was killing men, women and children.

Israeli sources reported that both men agreed on the "urgency" of stopping the mini-war in Lebanon. The sources said Haig did not refer specifically to the Christian enclaves along the Israeli border, where there has also been an upsurge of violence in recent days. There was no call from Haig to Israel to "restrain" the south Lebanese militia leader Major Sa'd Haddad—or to restrain itself.

Another omission by the secretary which went down well with his Israeli hosts was the subject of Jewish settlements on the West Bank. Under the Carter administration, no U.S.-Israeli dialogue on this level would have been complete without an American reiteration of Washington's strong disapproval of the settlements.

On the Israeli side, settlements supremo Ari'el Sharon waxed forceful in his demand that the deep-frozen U.S.-Israel-Egypt autonomy talks be resumed forthwith.

He and Israel's chief negotiator Yosef Burg recalled Israel's proposal to hand over 80 percent of the administrative powers on the West Bank and in Gaza to the autonomous council. They noted, too, that Israel was prepared for discussion on the sensitive issues of land and water rights.

Begin said that Egypt had been responsible for the repeated stalling of the autonomy talks.

Haig declared that the Reagan administration saw itself "fully committed" to the Camp David framework and to the peace process, but, as a new administration, it sought naturally to examine the causes of the recent lack of progress in the talks before determining what its policy would be.

MA'ARIV Correspondent

TA061022 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 6 Apr 81 p 3

[By political correspondent Ilan Kfir]

[Excerpt] During Haig's talk with Begin and the ministerial team, the prime minister condemned the European initiative which, in his opinion, harms the peace process.

Haig explained that the United States rejects that initiative out of hand and regards the Camp David agreement as the only way to continue the peace process. He said he had made it clear to the foreign ministers of Britain, France and West Germany that he was rejecting their initiative outright and asked them to cool their enthusiasm for that move.

Interior Minister Dr Yosef Burg delivered an emotional speech on the suspension of the autonomy talks by Egypt. Dr Burg argued that Egypt had misled Israel and used the pretext of setting new dates to evade the continuation of the negotiations. "We have initiated and brought up 80 percent of the suggestions in the course of the negotiations. We were prepared to set up committees on the issues of security and the water sources," Dr Burg said, "but the Egyptians were evasive and tied this to the Israeli election."

Mr Haig refrained from specifying a date for the resumption of the negotiations and said: "We would like to study the obstacles preventing progress. The United States is totally dedicated to the peace process." Haig said he had the impression that this view is shared by President as-Sadat as well.

Last night, a short while before the state dinner held by Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir for Alexander Haig, MK Moshe Dayan appeared at the "King David" Hotel and went up to Mr Haig's floor.

The meeting between Dayan and the U.S. secretary of state was regarded with surprise, as Haig's official hosts had not known about it.

It transpired that the meeting was held at Haig's request, as he reportedly shows great interest in Dayan's views and political plans.

The two personalities exchanged opinions and assessments of the political and international situation. At the end of the dinner, Haig conferred with Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek.